

Australia's Favourite Football Fanzine And Even Bigger At Etihad!

Still
\$5

goal!! weekly

Vol. 7 No. 30 Saturday 8th October 2011

Elastoplast

Souvenir Poster Inside
HARRY KEWELL

This Week's Line Up



A-LEAGUE ROUND 1 - KICK OFF ISSUE

Melbourne Victory v Sydney FC

Sat 8 Oct Etihad Stadium 6:30pm

HARRY ARRIVES TO CAST HIS SPELL

MINISTRY OF MAGIC!

Elastoplast

Sport

Supporting your Passion

www.elastoplastsport.com



PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

upcoming events



MUNDINE VS ALVAREZ

Watch it LIVE in our Sports Bar
19th October @ 7pm



CAULFIELD SPRING RACING CARNIVAL

Caulfield Guineas - 8th October
Caulfield Cup - 15th October



WORLD CUP RUGBY A - LEAGUE 2011

9th September until
23rd October 2011

Your ultimate
sporting
destination

Zagame's® caulfield


25 Derby Rd, Caulfield East VIC P: 03 9571 6268

Socceroos outclass Malaysia in Canberra




Russell Gibbs

Socceroos

5

Malaysia

0

Match Details

Friday 7th October 2011
International Friendly
Australia 5 (Luke Wilkshire 2', Josh Kennedy 33', 45', Alex Brosque 38', 69') Malaysia 0
Canberra Stadium, Canberra
Half-time: 4-0
Attendance: 10,041

Australia: 18. Adam FEDERICI (12. Nathan COE 46'), 2. Lucas NEILL, 3. Michael ZULLO (15. Mile JEDINAK 70'), 5. Rhys WILLIAMS, 6. Sasa OGNENOVSKI (22. Matthew SPIRANOVIC 46'), 8. Luke WILKSHIRE (23. Robbie KRUSE 62'), 9. Josh KENNEDY (11. James TROIISI 46'), 10. Alex BROSQUE, 16. Carl VALERI (13. Adam SAROTA 46'), 17. Matthew MCKAY, 19. Neil KILKENNY
Substitutes not used: 14. Brett HOLMAN

YELLOW CARDS: None
RED CARDS: None

Referee: Min Hu LEE
Assistant Referees: Paul CETRAN-GOLO, Brad HOBSON
4th Official: Jarred GILLETT



Josh Kennedy attempts manoeuvre past Malaysia's Mohd Asraruddin Putra Omar. Photo: NICK GUOTH

Australia warmed up for their FIFA World Cup 2014 Qualifier against Oman on Tuesday by easing to a comfortable 5-0 win against Malaysia in a friendly international at Canberra Stadium, on a cool Friday evening in the Nation's Capital, with a four-goal first half blitz setting the tone.

Josh Kennedy and Alex Brosque netted a brace each after Luke Wilkshire had given Australia the early advantage within 120 seconds with gallant Malaysia being outclassed in all areas of the field and hardly testing either Adam Federici or his second half replacement Nathan Coe in

the full ninety minutes.

Australia had a dream start taking the lead in the second minute. Patient build up play resulted in Rhys Williams, overlapping from full back, being given the freedom of the Malaysian penalty area and from his square pass Wilkshire couldn't miss, tapping into an empty net from close range.

To their credit Malaysia immediately responded with Safee Sali driving a low cross-shot across the face of the under-employed Federici but that was the closest that the visitors came as Australia dominated possession. Chances came thick and fast

for the Socceroos with Kennedy heading wide when well-placed, after sneaking in undetected behind the Malaysian back-four, and Brosque fluffing his lines and scuffing a great chance at the busy Khairul Fahmi Che Mat.

Brosque went close again moments later when his overhead kick from a corner was scrambled off the line, the dead-ball a result of a superb save by Che Mat after a surge and strike by Michael Zullo. By now it was evident that Australia were a class apart and, after Josh Kennedy thrashed a thunderbolt volley just wide, the Socceroos took a 2-0 lead.

Neil Kilkenny was the architect,

the Bristol City midfielder sliding a precisely measured through ball into the feet of Kennedy inside the penalty area and the big striker did the rest sweeping his shot inside the goalkeeper's near post. Brosque could have added a third four minutes later but after superbly bringing down a Kilkenny chip and rounding the 'keeper saw his effort sensationally blocked on the line by the backtracking Mohamad Ahmad.

Nonetheless it took the lively forward less than sixty seconds to make amends as he lashed home a Kennedy lay-off with the Malaysian defence in disarray. It



Josh Kennedy celebrates with scorer Luke Wilkshire Photo: NICK GUOTH



Michael Zullo pulls the trigger and shoots on sight. Photo: NICK GUOTH

Group D Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Australia	2	2	0	0	5	2	3	6
Thailand	2	1	0	1	4	2	2	3
Saudi Arabia	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1
Oman	2	0	1	1	0	3	-3	1

was four before the interval, as Kennedy grabbed his second of the night volleying home from a delicious Williams cross, with Australia in total control.

Holger Osieck rang the changes at the break introducing Coe for Federici, Matthew Spiranovic for Sasa Ognenovski, Adam Sarota for hometown hero Carl Valeri and James Troisi for two-goal Kennedy.

Starting the second stanza much as they had finished the first the Socceroos continued to pile on the pressure on the bewildered Malaysian rearguard with Troisi seeing his downward header pushed away to safety. Perhaps inevitably though the pace slackened as Australia took their collective foot of the pedal, content to keep possession and run the Malaysians ragged in midfield.

When they did up the tempo a fifth goal suddenly appeared from no-where in the 69th minute. Brosque collected a pass on the edge of the penalty area and spun sharply to send a fierce low drive beyond the despairing reach of Che Mat to claim his second of the night, a deserved return for an energetic display.

Whilst the disparity in class was evident throughout the encounter the performance, and the goals that came with it, will be a another welcome boost to the Socceroos as their build-up for a place in Brazil 2014 gathered further momentum with Oman next on the agenda on in Sydney.


INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF SOCCER
1300 793 505





Rini has Reds raring to go

By Nat Adamopoulos

With the start of the 2011-2012 A-League season only one week away, Adelaide United have got fans looking forward to a promising season as Rini Coolen's new signings have shaped up well to show the football faithful they have what it takes to be championship contenders. Coolen has to be commended on the wonderful job he did in his debut season as Senior coach taking the South Australian side from wooden spooners to get to semi finalists in the finals.

With their season over, The Reds football lovers were left wondering what the future of the club would be after the loss of so many...Shin, Reid, Fyfe, Hughes, Cornthwaite, Pantelis, Leckie, their favourite Flores and local son and captain Dodd... having to come to grips that they were not be part of the squad in the 7th Hyundai A-League season. But the Reds supporters have been quick to warm to the new players, some already making names for themselves both on and off the pitch, which in turn has eased the pain of the huge losses. Coolen has to be congratulated on his search for the right players to fill the spots and going by the pre-season trials....looks to have got it right so far.

Coolen had said in his season review that the players he was searching for had to be quality



Much is expected from the exciting Andy Slory. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Bruce Djite returns to Hindmarsh to lead the attack. ADAM BUTLER



Dario Vidosic will add an extra touch of quality. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Jon McKain replaces the departed Rob Cornthwaite. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

1 Eugene GALEKOVIC	G
2 Osama MALIK	D
3 Nigel BOOGAARD	D
4 Jon McKAIN	D
5 Daniel MULLEN	D
6 CASSIO	D
7 Zenon CARAVELLA	M
8 Evgeniy LEVCHENKO	M
9 Sergio VAN DIJK	F
10 Dario VIDOSIC	M
11 Bruce DJITE	F
12 Antony GOLEC	D
13 Ricardo DA SILVA	F
14 Cameron WATSON	M
15 Jacob MELLING	M
16 Spase DILEVSKI	M
17 Iain RAMSAY	M
18 Fabian BARBIERO	M
20 Mark BIRIGHITTIGI	G
21 Francisco USUCAR	M
22 Milan SUSAK	D
23 Andy SLORY	M
30 Paul IZZO	G

Ins:
Zenon CARAVELLA (Gold Coast)
Spase DILEVSKI (Uni Craiova, Rom)
Bruce DJITE (Gold Coast United)
Antony GOLEC (Sydney United)
Evgeniy LEVCHENKO (Willem II, Holl)
Osama MALIK (North Queensland Fury)
Jon McKAIN (Al-Nassr, Saudi Arabia)
Bradley NORTON (AUGC Youth Team)
Milan SUSAK (Minangkabau, Indonesia)
Dario VIDOSIC (FC Nuremberg, Germ)
Paul IZZO* (AIS),
Jacob MELLING* (AIS)
* contract commences on Jan 1, 2012

Outs:
Dario BODRUSIC (released)
Robert CORNTHWAITE (Chunnam, Kor)
Joe COSTA (released)
Travis DODD (released – Perth Glory)
Marcos FLORES (Henan Jianye, China)
Iain FYFE (Busan I'Park, Korea)
Adam HUGHES (released – Perth Glory)
Mathew LECKIE (Borussia Mon, Germ)
Francesco MONTEROSSO (released)
Bradley NORTON (released)
Lucas PANTELIS (Wellington Phoenix)
Paul REID (released)

players, with the right balance for the team, they had to fit into the budget, they had to be proud to play for Adelaide United and they had to have a challenge...that challenge being to win something in the future with the club, as well as a personal challenge to use the club to make their next step for the future. And that's the mix that Coolen has managed to entice to Adelaide United for the upcoming season. Apart from two, the exciting eight signings bring with them various national squad experience and have already made an impact in the side, further enhancing the talent already on the park.

Captained by newcomer Jon McKain who himself has knotted up 16 caps for the Qantas Soc-

ceros, other new signings are Zenon Caravella from Gold Coast United, Evgeniy Levchenko - Wilhelm II (Holland), Dario Vidosic - FC Nuremberg (Germany), Antony Golec – Sydney FC, Spase Dilevski - Universitatea Craiova (Romania) and local lad Ricardo – Adelaide City (FFSA Super League). The Club also welcomes back two favourite sons for their second stints in the Red strip, defender Milan Susak - Minangkabau FC (Indonesia) and Bruce Djite – 2010 Gold Coast United top goal scorer (10 goals). Susak was made available after his club did not receive a licence in the newly formed Indonesian league , and the former Red did not hesitate to accept the club's offer to return.

"When I played here in 2007/08

the club was good, its like a family club and they make you feel comfortable here. When I left I was shattered and then when they contacted me to look at coming back, I was very happy" said Susak. Djite is excited to be back at the club and brings with him the recent experience of playing in China.

"After 5 years Im excited to be back to a beautiful city, fantastic fans and a fantastic football club" he said.

Locals cant wait for the partnering up of Djite with Reds 2010 Golden Boot winner Sergio Van Dijk (17 goals), the lethal attacking duo looming to be just what the doctor ordered for the SA side.

With the stable of stars that Coolen has gathered no doubt we will see

that his convincing skills and intent to play a fluent attacking style of total football will be evident for all to witness. And with the new look Adelaide United comes the new owners who look at the big picture of changing club culture, insisting that no one person is more important than the club and that everybody works to go in the same direction supporting each other as they develop. This mentality will obviously ensure that the same fiasco that occurred with Travis Dodd will never occur again and that Adelaide United and all who follow look forward to a season filled with excitement, entertaining football and plenty of goals ultimately aiming for a finals berth for their loyal and award winning fans!



Roar seeks to create history

By Jarrod Ellis

Brisbane Roar enter the 2011-12 A-League season as reigning A-League Premiers, A-League Champions and on the back of an Australian record breaking run of 28 games unbeaten.

Yet as impressive as they were last season Brisbane will need to rewrite the record books once again if they are to be crowned 2011-12 A-League Champions. No club has won back-to-back championships since the A-League's inception and on more than one occasion the reigning champions have failed to make the finals series.

Brisbane have lost some key players since claiming the "Toilet Seat" in March, Matt McKay, Kosta Barbarouses, Jean Carlos Solorzano and Milan Susak all leaving to pursue opportunities abroad. Couple those losses with the mid season departures of Reinaldo and Luke DeVere and the club has lost half a team in the space of a year.

This isn't a new situation that the club is facing – Craig Moore, Tommy Oar, Adam Sarota and Michael Zullo - Socceroos all, exited before the start of the most successful season in the club's history. Any manager would have struggled to find replacements for such talented players but in Ange Postecoglou Brisbane have a manager with a football philosophy and an eye for talent who rejuvenated the squad and will be attempting to do so once again.

Postecoglou's new signings for this season begin at the back, Matthew Jurman, Jack Hingert and Sayed Mohammed Adnan have been brought

in to bolster a defence that conceded the fewest goals in the league last season.

Jurman and Hingert provide much needed depth but it is the Bahraini, Sayed Mohammed Adnan who is the most exciting of the three signings.

Known as a goal-scoring defender, Mohammed Adnan was named 2009 Asian Footballer of the Year runner-up and should provide a touch of class and creativity at the back that will fit perfectly with Brisbane's preferred style of play.

Much has been made of the loss of Matt McKay in midfield and the loss of a club captain is always significant, but a combination of factors should lessen the impact of his absence.

Massimo Murdocca will begin the season fully fit and his presence, coupled with the hoped-for development of Mitch Nichols and new signing Issey Nakajima-Farran, should give Brisbane the necessary options in midfield to account for the loss of the club captain.

Creative outlet Thomas Broich and midfield enforcer Erik Paartalu are both returning fully fit and if they can reproduce their form of last season then Brisbane should be able to match it with the league's best in the middle of the park.

The biggest change this season for Brisbane is the complete overhaul of the frontline. The club began last season with Reinaldo, Jean Carlos Solorzano and Kosta Barbarouses as their three first choice strikers, all have since left the club and Postecoglou has had to spend this off-season searching for goal scorers.

Kofi Danning has joined from Syd-



The Roar swept all before them last season playing a refreshing brand of football with devastating results and deserved honours. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Kofi Danning will fill the shoes left behind by Russian bound Kostas Barbarouses. Photo: GEOFF JONES

ney and will likely drift between a central position and wide on the right. Despite only having just turned 20, the young striker has been on the national scene since 2009 and is still regarded by some as one of the brightest prospects in Australia's playing stocks. Injuries have hampered him during recent times, but if he can remain fit and gel with Brisbane's style of play his signing could prove to be a revelation.

Perhaps Brisbane's most intriguing signing of the summer is Albanian striker Besart Berisha. Arriving from Armini Bielefeld, Berisha has been somewhat of a football nomad, having played professionally for clubs in Germany, Denmark, England and Norway all by the age of 26. Never the most prolific of strikers in any of his previous stops he'll be hoping to reignite his national team career and

will likely share time in the central striker position with Danning.

Brisbane's lack of big name off season moves in relation to their counterparts has made for a largely low key buildup, something that Brisbane's manager hopes will change.

"I want the focus on us and I want us to have the headlines," Postecoglou said. "I don't believe in this flying under the radar, underdog thing.

"We won the championship last year, deservedly so, and we go in this year thinking we are the best team again.

"Rightly so, the off-season headlines have been dominated by particularly Melbourne Victory and Sydney FC but I'm hoping the in-season headlines are about us.

"That's our intention, we don't want to hide from anything and we want to carry that attempt to reclaim the title right from the front.

"Certainly in our point of view, we're not comfortable in the shadows of anyone."

New Owners for Brisbane Roar

Football Federation Australia (FFA) announced new owners for Brisbane Roar FC with the Bakrie Group of Indonesia taking a controlling stake.

FFA CEO Ben Buckley welcomed the Bakrie Group into the Hyundai A-League family and said the announcement was a great result for Brisbane Roar, its supporters and the game in Australia.

Pelita Jaya Cronus is part of the Bakrie Group of companies. The company currently has a stake in Brisbane Roar (A League), Pelita Jaya (Indonesian Super League), Cercle Sportif Vise (Belgian Second Division) and Indonesia Futbol S.A.D (Uruguay U17 & U19 top division).



Mariners

1. Mathew Ryan	G
2. Daniel McBreen	F
3. Joshua Rose	D
4. Pedj Bojic	D
5. Brad Porter	D
6. Patrick Zwaanswijk	D
7. John Hutchinson	M
8. Rostyn Griffiths	M
9. Bernie Ibini-Isei	F
10. Adriano Pellegrino	M
11. Oliver Bozanic	M
12. Troy Hearfield	M
13. Stuart Musialik	M
14. Michael McGlinchey	M
15. Brad McDonald	M
16. Trent Sainsbury	D
17. Michael Baird	F
18. Alex Wilkinson	D
19. Matt Simon	F
20. Justin Pasfield	G
21. Sam Gallagher	D
22. Mustafa Amini	M
23. Adam Kwasnik	F

INS:
Adriano Pellegrino (Perth Glory)
Troy Hearfield (Pelita Jaya)
Stuart Musialik (Sydney FC)
Brad McDonald (NQF)
Justin Pasfield (NQF)
Bernie Ibini-Isei (Promoted from Youth Team)

OUTS:
Jess Vanstrattan (released)
Patricio Perez (released)
Nik Mrdja (released)
Matthew Lewis (released)
Chris Doig (released)
Marc Warren (transferred to Sheffield United)



Gold Coast

1 Glen MOSS	G
2 Joshua BRILLANTE	M
3 Michael THWAITE	D / M
4 Zac ANDERSON	D
5 Kristian REES	D
6 Paul BEEKMANS	D/M
7 Golgol MEBRAHTU	F
8 ROBSON	D/M
9 Joel PORTER	F
10 Tahj MINNIECON	F
11 Jake BARKER-DAISH	M
12 Dylan MACALLISTER	F
13 Ante ROZIC	D
14 Ben HALLORAN	F
15 Adama TRAORE	D
16 Maceo RIGTERS	F
17 Chris HAROLD	F
18 James BROWN	M
19 Chris BROADFOOT	F
20 Jerrad TYSON	G
21 Daniel SEVERINO	M
22 Peter JUNGSCHLAGER	M
23 Dylan MCGOWAN	D
26 Samuel TESFAGABR	D
27 Ambesager YOSIEF	D

INS:
Paul Beekmans (Leeuwarden, Netherlands), Jake Barker-Daish (AIS), Daniel Severino (Sydney Olympic), Peter Jungschlager (De Graafschap, Netherlands), Dylan McGowan (Hearts, Scotland), Dylan Macallister (Breidablik, Iceland), Ante Rozic - Arka Gdynia (Poland), Maceo Rigters (Free agent), Sami Tesfagabr (Western Strikers (SA), Ambes Yosief (Western Strikers, SA), Joshua Brillante (NYL), Zac Anderson (NYL), Ben Halloran (NYL), Chris Harold (NYL).

OUTS
Steve Pantelidis (Bintang Medan, Indonesia, Bas van den Brink (Perth Glory) Shane Smeltz (Perth Glory) , Dino Djulbic (Shaanxi Chanba, China), Zenon Caravella (Adelaide United), Bruce Djite (Adelaide United), Andrew Barisic (Persebaya 1927, Indonesia), Daniel Piorkowski (retired), Matt Osman (released), Anderson Alves da Silva (released), Scott Higgins (retired, now GCU keeper coach), Steve Fitzsimmons (retired), John Curtis (released).

Mariners determined to amend

By Adrian Deans

Brisbane Roar, deservedly, took all the plaudits (and the honours) from Season 6, but there was one team snapping at their heels all year. The Central Coast Mariners were a genuine surprise packet last season – Graham Arnold’s team of journeymen and no-names blending together to play a brand of football every bit as enterprising and effective as Postecoglou’s Roar, and they were unfortunate not to take a trophy on the final day.

Two goals up with not too long to go, the Mariners were desperately unlucky not to hold on for a famous Grand Final win. Three times they’ve now made the decider, and three times they’ve gone home without the chocolates. So how are they looking for the new campaign?

Last year, there were some new names we’d never heard of: Patricio Perez and Patrick Zwaanswijk – who the hell were they?

We found out.

They had superb seasons, and so did all of Graham Arnold’s other imports: McGlinchey, Rose, Griffiths and young Avoca Beach product, Ollie Bozanic, back from Reading to electrify the Mariners’ left wing.

So what’s in store for this year?

A few new names, but none of them unknown to A-League audiences: Troy Hearfield, Adriano Pellegrino and Stuart Musialik are the types of players who have shown plenty of ability at previous clubs but didn’t quite get their games to the level they promised. In particular, Pel-



A strong pre-season including a win over Celtic indicates the Mariners will once again be challenging for honours.
Photo: PETE NEVILLE

legrino could be a sensation under the Mariner’s system. He’s been playing at the top of the diamond in the place dominated by Perez and Amini last year, and going pretty well in a team unbeaten in more than ten pre-season outings.

Brad McDonald and Justin Pasfield (refugees from the sadly departed Fury) complete the new roster, which despite the loss of Perez is looking very strong indeed.

Mustafa Amini is on loan to the Mariners from his new club Borussia Dortmund (who just happen to be Bundesliga Champions) and will play the entire Season 7 plus the Group Phase of the Asian Champions League. Brought to the club by Lawrie McKinna at the end of his reign, Amini was a revelation last year. Not as fast as some, but his vision (especially for a 17 yo) was incredible.

He knew exactly where all his teammates were (and where they were running) and brought them into play with uncanny passes. The main thing Amini needs to improve is his finishing – he got himself into goal scoring positions on countless occasions last year and should have done much better.

The other young star unearthed by the Mariners last year was goalkeeper Matt Ryan. Justin Pasfield signed fairly early last season to come to the Central Coast in Season 7, and must have watched with a sinking heart as Ryan went from strength to strength. He will not be easy for ex-Joeey Pasfield to dislodge.

But even more than the young stars, it was the old star who was most responsible for the successful Season 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk was sensational at the back last year, and for me



Daniel Breen’s experience will prove vital for the Mariners.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS

was easily the Mariners’ most valuable player. His ability to spot trouble before it happened, and the perfect timing of his tackles was amazing for a 36 year old. (Best he keeps his reflexes one more year!) His ability to switch the play and pick out flying wingers and fullbacks with 50 metre passes was also appreciated by the fans.

It will also be interesting to watch how Graham Arnold copes in his second season. The coach took many by surprise with the style of football his team produced last year. His reputation had been slightly tarnished by the Socceroos’ lacklustre Asian Cup campaign in 2007, so plenty of Mariners fans had their doubts when Arnold was announced to take over from the much-loved Lawrie McKinna.

No longer. The fans are enjoying



Graham Arnold will aim to wipe away the tears from last season.
Photo: PETER NEVILLE

the team’s success, but just as much they are loving the manner in which it comes. The speed and directness of play, featuring the wide running of Josh Rose, Ollie Bozanic, Michael McGlinchey and Pedj Bojic, linking up with the pace of Matt Simon via the wiliness and vision of Zwaanswijk and Amini. A fourth Grand Final appearance is definitely on the cards.

Along with the Roar, if the Mariners can produce a similar level of high energy, attacking football as last season, they may well generate some good results not only in the A-League, but also Asia.

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores.

Miron forced to rebuild gold stocks

By Luca Cetta

After two consecutive finals appearances, Gold Coast United will face an uphill task to make it three-in-a-row. Coach Miron Bleiberg has lost key players from the side which was narrowly defeated in last season’s Preliminary Final by Central Coast Mariners.

In 2010/11 he was able to rely upon a solid defensive unit which was the third best in the A-League, conceding only 32 goals in the minor round. The team was led by marquee signing Jason Culina and boasted a devastating strike partnership in Shane Smeltz (seven goals in nine matches) and Bruce Djite (ten goals in 23 matches).

Fast forward to the current elongated pre-season and most of the talk has surrounded those who have left the yellow and blues. Smeltz has joined Perth Glory while Djite has gone to Adelaide United. The influential Culina has joined his father Branko at Newcastle while tireless midfield worker Zenon Caravella is another to have departed, joining Djite at the Reds.

Three vital cogs of Bleiberg’s defence have also disappeared, with the impressive Bas van den Brink linking up with Smeltz out west. Steve Pantelidis and Dino Djulbic have moved to Asia - Pantelidis to Bintang Medan in Indonesia and Djulbic to China’s Shaanxi Chanba. Andrew Barisic has also moved to Indonesia after struggling to find

regular playing time. German Peter Perchtold has left the Coast to join Mainz in his native country.

Veterans Scott Higgins, Daniel Piorkowski and Steve Fitzsimmons have called time on their careers, while the Brazilian Anderson, plus Matt Osman and John Curtis, have been released.

Bleiberg has gambled on a mix of European experience and local youth to counteract his big-name players leaving. He welcomes a Dutch trio to Skilled Park, all with top-flight experience in the Netherlands. Paul Beekmans has moved from second division outfit SC Cambuur. The 29-year-old central defender has played one season in the Eredivisie and is a strong presence in defence. Midfielder Peter Jungschlager, 27, has four seasons of Eredivisie experience under his belt. The player recently departed De Graafschap, who finished the 2010/11 Eredivisie season in 14th position. The final piece of the Dutch puzzle is 27-year-old striker Maceo Rigters, the former Dutch U-21 international who joins on a free transfer. Rigters was part of the team which captured the European U-21 Championships in 2007 and he contributed two goals in the group stage, one in the semi-final and one in the final against Serbia.

Hard working striker Dylan Macalister comes over from Wellington Phoenix while defenders Dylan McGowan and Ante Rozic have been enticed home. The former



With plenty of movement at the Gold Coast over the summer the likes of Joel Porter and Golgol Mebrahtu must lead by example and produce the goods.
Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

joins on a season-long loan from Hearts in Scotland, with Rozic leaving Polish club Arka Gdynia.

Bleiberg is also looking towards youth, with players promoted from the National Youth League squad expected to play a greater role this season. He has called up Joshua Brillante, Zac Anderson, Ben Halloran and Chris Harold, who all have prior first-team experience. In addition, the Coach has signed Daniel Severino from Sydney Olympic and the impressive Sami Tesfagabr and Ambes Yosief from South Australian side Western Strikers.

Gold Coast appears to have a strong first XI but they lack depth on the bench, which may cost them as the season reaches the latter stages. The spine is solid; Glen Moss

is an accomplished goalkeeper, while Michael Thwaite is a championship winning defender from his time at Melbourne Victory. Add in Beekmans and Kristian Rees and the Coast has a firm trio to rely on. Adama Traore is best when going forward and will have a crucial role to play at left-back.

Jungschlager will be expected to anchor the midfield in his preferred defensive midfield role, while Robson needs to play with greater consistency. Following the mass exodus of experienced players, Bleiberg will turn to the Brazilian to be a leader. Although only 24 and without his brother Anderson at the club, this is the time to show what he is capable of.

Up front Gold Coast will be hurt by the departure of their lethal strike



Miron Bleiberg will hope his rebuilt side will settle quickly.
Photo: ADMA BUTLER

combination, but can rely upon the evergreen Joel Porter, who is still deadly in front of goal. Tahj Minniecon is talented in and around the penalty area and can use his speed and trickery to link up with other players, but like Robson, needs consistency. Responsibility will fall on Rigters’ shoulders, but he and fellow signing Macalister have never been regular goal-scorers. Rigters is a versatile player, having the ability to lead the line or play as a wide forward.

Following a difficult transfer campaign Bleiberg will once again look to build a solid unit, but needs all his strikers to chip in with goals. They will be in the hunt for sixth position, but their lack of depth could hurt.



Melbourne Heart

1 Clint Bolton	G
2 Michael Marrone	D
3 Brendan Hamill	D
4 Simon Colosimo	D
5 Fred	M
6 Matt Thompson	D
7 Rutger Worm	M
8 Kristian Sarkies	M
9 Maycon	F
10 Wayne Srhoj	M
11 Alex Terra	F
13 Jonatan Germano	M
14 Kamal Ibrahim	F
15 David Williams	F
16 Aziz Behich	D
17 Jason Hoffman	F
18 Curtis Good	D
19 Eli Babalj	F
20 Adrian Zahra	M
21 Kliment Taseski	M
22 Nick Kalmar	M
23 Mate Dugandzic	F

Ins
Mate Dugandzic (Melb Victory)
Curtis Good (AIS)
David Williams (Nth Qld Fury)
Fred (DC United, USA)
Jonatan Germano (Estudiantes)
Maycon (Nova Iguacu)

Outs
John Aloisi (Retired)
Josip Skoko (Retired)
Peter Zois (Retired)
Michael Beauchamp (Sydney FC)
Dean Heffernan (Liaoning Whowin,)
Gerald Sibon (Heerenveen, Holl)
Ante Tomic (Sydney United)



Melb Victory

1 Tando VELAPHI
2 Matthew FOSCHINI
3 Fabio Alves Macedo
4 Petar FRANJIC
6 Leigh BROXHAM
7 Matthew KEMP
8 Grant BREBNER
9 Jean Carlos SOLORIZANO
10 Archie THOMPSON
11 Marco ROJAS
12 Rodrigo VARGAS
13 Diogo FERREIRA
14 Billy CELESKI
15 Tomislav PONDELJAK
16 Carlos HERNANDEZ
17 Jimmy JEGGO
18 Daniel ALLSOPP
19 Isaka CERNAK
20 Lawrence Thomas
21. Ante COVIC
22 Harry Kewell
23 Adrian LEIJER
25 Luke O'DEA
26 Nick ANSELL

Ins:
Jean Carlos Solorzano (Roar)
Marco Rojas (Wellington Phoenix)
James Jeggo (Melb Victory Youth)
Tando Velaphi (GK) (Perth Glory)
Isaka Cernak (Nth Qld Fury)
Ante Covic (IF Elfsborg, Sweden)

Outs:
Michael Petkovic (GK) (retired)
Marvin Angulo (CS Herediano)
Luke Pilkington (VPL – Bentleigh Greens)
Robbie Kruse (Fortuna Dusseldorf, Germany)
Kevin Muscat (retired)

High hopes held for Heart

By David Manuca

Kick-off for the 2011/12 A-League season arrives today after a long and toilsome off-season, the action begins this weekend, with the excitement hitting fever pitch.

Never before has there been so much hype surrounding the A-League, with media attention at an all-time high thanks to a number of high-profile signings.

The quality of football is expected to be the best on show in the seven year history of the league and the players, staff, fans, media - basically everyone can't wait!

Last season Melbourne Heart finished just outside the finals position in their inaugural season. It was a great effort for a side that was built in a short period of time.

Heart were victorious in the first ever Melbourne derby with a 2-1 win against Melbourne Victory. The other two finished in a Victory win and a draw.

However Melbourne Heart only managed four wins at home last season and only one of them came after the Melbourne derby in October.

But what's in store for the Heart this season?

Arrivals: Mate Dugandzic (Melbourne Victory), Curtis Good (AIS), David Williams (North Queensland Fury), Fred (DC United), Jonatan Germano (Estudiantes), Maycon (Nova Iguacu).

Departures: John Aloisi, Josip Skoko, Peter Zois (Retired), Michael Beauchamp (Sydney FC), Dean Heffernan (Liaoning Whowin), Gerald



Some might say the honeymoon is officially over for Heart and the time to deliver has now arrived.
Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY

Sibon (SC Heerenveen), Ante Tomic (Sydney United).

Melbourne Heart has made a number of quality signings in the attacking-third in the off-season which include David Williams, Mate Dugandzic, Fred, Maycon and Jonatan Germano to fill the void left by the retirement of John Aloisi, Josip Skoko and the departure of Gerald Sibon.

Heart has also added Curtis Good from the AIS as well as Nikola Roganovic from VPL champions Green Gully Cavaliers as a back-up goalkeeper to Clint Bolton.

With the retirement and departures of experienced players John Aloisi, Gerald Sibon and Josip Skoko, head coach John van't Schip has looked towards youth for next season.

It shows with Heart's average age for this season at 23 years old, which is

lower than last season's which was roughly 27.

The senior players in the squad are surely going to have a positive impact on the younger players who can intake invaluable experience from them and grow.

Van't Schip has come out and said that reaching the finals is his only aim, and with the team he has built up, going all the way is definitely achievable.

After a disappointing first season where Heart just missed out on finals action, the buzz around the club is electric!

During the long off-season Heart ventured into the community, holding many clinics for schools and clubs as well as playing a number of friendly games around the state.

Shepparton, Langwarrin, Ballarat



John van Schip knows he must get the formula right.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS

and Morwell are just some of the places Heart visited, strongly enforcing their stance as a community club.

Membership numbers are up on last season and with some exciting times ahead, Heart are surely in store for a great season.

Prediction: Heart will need to have a better home record this season to have a chance of reaching the finals. With only four wins out of fifteen at home last season, picking up the three points at AAMI Park is crucial. It's hard to predict but Heart have a very good squad on paper and with a more established and settled squad, Heart should just reach the finals.

Players to watch: New signings Fred and David Williams are two players



Much is expected of new Brazilian signing Maycon.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS

to look out for next season. Williams joined from North Queensland Fury and the young forward will be looking to make an impact immediately and live up to his great potential.

Fred comes from DC United in the United States and is no stranger to the A-League. He has been made captain for the upcoming season and fans will be expecting a lot from him. I'm sure he'll live up to the hype and lead Heart to the finals.

First match: vs Newcastle Jets – Saturday 8 October at Ausgrid Stadium, Newcastle. 4.30pm kick-off.

First home game: vs Perth Glory Sunday 16 October at AAMI Park Melbourne. 5pm kick-off.

Victory heralds exciting new era

By Daniel Quinn

Melbourne Victory go into the 2011-12 A-League season with a new coach, Adrian Leijer as full time captain and the Socceroos very own Harry Kewell.

Mehmet Durakovic has taken over on a full time basis from Ernie Merrick after being promoted from the National Youth League (NYL) team. During the long preseason he has promoted some of his youth players like Jimmy Jeggo, Nick Ansell and Luke O'Dea.

Kevin Muscat retired shortly after his infamous challenge on Heart's Adrian Zahra and has joined the coaching staff as Durakovic's Assistant. Due to his absence young defenders like Ansell and Franjic have been given opportunities. Adrian Leijer has taken over the reigns as captain like he did at the end when Muscat was suspended.

The longest drawn out saga in Australian Football finally came to an end when Harry Kewell, a former Sydney sider joined Melbourne Victory. Sydney FC and Victory battled with Kewell's agent Bernie Mandic and the Football Federation Australia (FFA) but the Victory won the chase. He joins on a minimum wage but will receive incentives like Memberships bought since signing and gate receipts at games. Durakovic has known Kewell since Harry's young days and an already built relationship makes a good combination. Kewell even played in one of Durakovic's last games for Australia when Harry was 17.

Durakovic sees Kewell as an Attacking Midfielder. He is seen to play behind the Striker in a 4-2-3-1 or 4-3-3 formation with Allsopp and Solorzano up front. But what does this mean for Carlos Hernandez? Carlos' contract is up after this season and he quite possibly could



Archie Thompson will have plenty to feed off in attack.
Photo: ADAM BUTLER

leave if he doesn't get the game time he believes he merits. Some say he will be played in a deeper position, a bit like Mikel Arteta did at Everton with Tim Cahill was in the position behind the Striker. But surely Carlos' lack of work ethic and fitness would see his best position further up the pitch.

Tando Velaphi joins from Perth Glory as Victory's first choice Goalkeeper and after his performance against Glasgow Celtic he looked like a fantastic signing after making some great saves. He joins after Michael Petkovic retired and Sebastian Mattei was released. Former U20 Socceroos Goalkeeper Lawrence Thomas joins as Velaphi's backup and possible NYL Keeper after failing to live up to exceptions at English club Sheffield United.

Unfortunately over the past week or so Tando Velaphi was ruled out between 6 to 10 weeks with a fracture to his Tibia in his leg. Victory immediately replaced him by signing former Socceroo Ante



Harry Kewell brings the X factor to Victory.
Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Covic on a one year deal. This is good news for Covic but if he performs well Velaphi may not get his spot back. Injuries can be very unfortunate. Jean Carlos Solorzano joins on loan from LDAlajuelense after an impressive A-League debut season with premiers Brisbane Roar. He is seen as Robbie Kruse's replacement as he goes off to Germany with Fortuna Dusseldorf.

Marco Rojas joins from Wellington Phoenix on a bargain of a free transfer even though it looked possible he would move to Europe instead. Like Velaphi he too had a very impressive performance on the Left Wing against Celtic. He is still young and nobody should be surprised if he leaves shortly. Isaka Cernak joins from the now defunct North Queensland Fury to give Rojas competition on the Wing. Both positions were available after Marvin Angulo returned to parent club CS Herediano after Victory were unable to pay for the high transfer fee to make his



Mehmet Durakovic will have plenty of aces up his sleeve.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS

move permanent.

Fabio Alves Macedo or Fabio as he is to be known joins as one of those unknown Brazilians. Fabio plays at Left Fullback and will give Matthew Kemp competition and may get a few games because of Kemp's injury history. Fabio only joins on a 12 month deal which Victory made a good move on. Brazilians coming to A-League have been a bit hit and miss over the six seasons.

Overall Victory's squad is looking great where they could potentially win the lot like they did in the second season under Ernie Merrick. Anything could happen when you have Harry Kewell but Sydney FC fans will fight you over that one as they have signed Brett Emerton. But that is for another article. One important question to ask is how is Mehmet Durakovic going to go in the A-League after coaching the youth team? An inexperienced manager replaces a very experienced one in Ernie Merrick.



Solorzano makes the move south from Brisbane Roar.
Photo: ANITA MILAS

The only problem that could be said about their squad is their defence. Youngster Matt Foschini has been promoted with Petar Franjic but with Roddy Vargas' aging legs surely someone else is needed. The Victory trialed Socceroo Adrian Madaschi but he has gone back to Europe looking for more Football there.

In later days it has been reported that Melbourne Heart's Simon Colosimo might join to partner Leijer in defence. The former Sydney FC winning captain and Socceroo has lost the captaincy at Heart after Fred's arrival and after falling out of favour. But would Victory supporters allow or want him to join? Some say yes! Because of his abilities, leadership and he is one of the better Defenders in the A-League. Others say no! Because he plays for Heart! So let's see where this goes.

Follow Daniel on Twitter:
@Quinby07



Newcastle Jets

- 1 KENNEDY Ben

2 REGAN Taylor

3 SIMIC Mario

4 TOPOR STANLEY Nikolai

5 CALVANO Tiago

6 KANTAROVSKI Ben

7 WEHRMAN Kasey

8 BROCKIE Jeremy

10 ZADKOVICH Ruben

12 WHEELHOUSE Jobe

13 BYUN Sung-Hwan

14 HALITI Labinot

15 PAYNE Chris

16 GALLAWAY Samuel

17 VIRGILI James

18 JESIC Marko

19 NASH Matthew

20 CULINA Jason

22 ABBAS Ali

23 GRIFFITHS Ryan
- G

D

D

D

D

M

M

F

M

D

D

F

F

D

F

F

G

M

M

F

INS:
Jason Culina
Tiago Calvano
Chris Payne
Byun Sung-Hwan
Sam Galloway
James Virgili
Mario Simic

OUTS:
Brody Mooy
Kaz Patafta
Sean Rooney
Sash Petrovski
Zhang Shuo
Michael Bridges
Adam D'Apuzzo

Jets hit turbulence on season eve

By Shaun Dyas

The Newcastle Jets will be entering the new A-League season amid a storm of controversy after the controversial sacking of their coach Branko Culina and the 'setting aside' of his son Jason's contract.

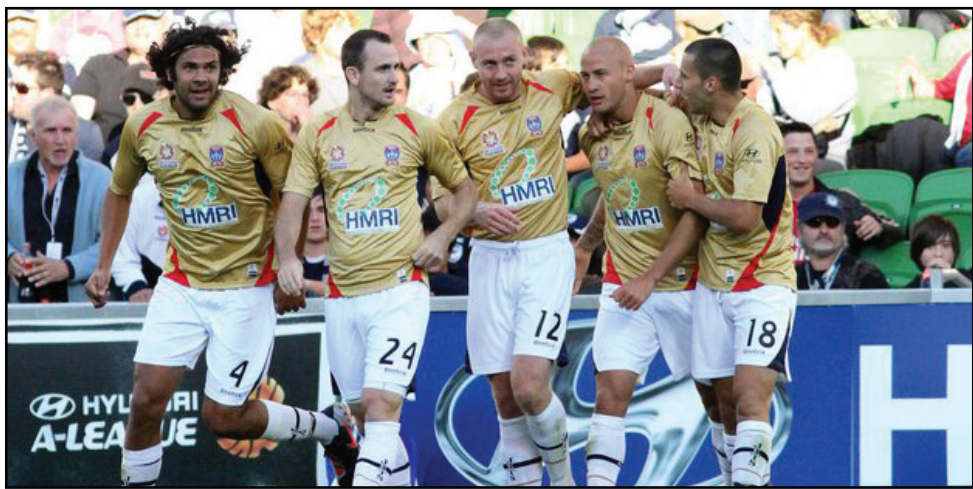
The Jets former coach Culina was present at the official A-League season launch on Tuesday morning, where he spoke of the new beginnings and new ideas that have been introduced under the ownership of Nathan Tinkler and the Hunter Sports Group.

An hour later though, at a meeting organised on the Monday afternoon, Culina was told he was no longer a part of this new vision for the club and his son Jason's contract with the club was 'set aside' or effectively terminated.

It appears the club has wasted little time in the search for his replacement. The club has reportedly sent a delegation to meet with championship winning mentor Gary Van Egmond.

Amidst all this, the team has four days to prepare for a crucial season opening clash with the Melbourne Heart and youth team coach Craig Deans has been suddenly thrust into the spotlight.

The players have presented a united front to the media saying that the sacking of Culina will not be a distraction and that they are fully focused on defeating the Heart. Only time will tell whether this is the case as the remainder of the squad pre-



The Jets are already facing a season of adversity and will be forced to adjust to life without their marquee signing Jason Culina. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Branko Culina becomes the first coaching casualty of the season before a ball is even kicked. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

pare to venture into season 7 of the Hyundai A-League. The Jets this season will be largely relying on the same side that finished the last campaign in seventh position. There have been a few additions but they lack the real star power of the other sides. Brazilian centre half Tiago Calvano has joined the club from German Second division outfit Fortuna Dusseldorf and has formed a solid combination with the ever reliable Nikolai Topor-Stanley at the back. Former Sydney FC fullback Byun Sung-Hwan has also joined as a replacement for the much maligned Adam Dapuzzo and will add some pace down the left side of the Jets defence. His delivery from set pieces will also be vital throughout the season if the Jets are to improve their

attack. Much will be expected of new signing Chris Payne who has left the now defunct North Queensland Fury. He has looked promising in the pre season playing at the point of the Jets 4-2-3-1 formation. His pace and liveliness will complement the gifted but also inconsistent Marko Jesic. Jesic has been transformed in the off season from a natural striker to an attacking midfielder and will be the player charged with trying to fill the boots of the injured Jason Culina. Injuries have also been an issue for the Olyroo and he is in doubt for the Heart game with a sprained ankle suffered in an intra-club trial. The new Jets captain Jobe Wheelhouse has reportedly trained the house down in the off season and has been justly rewarded. He is one

member of a very solid midfield for the Jets alongside Kasey Wehrman, Ben Kantarovski and Ruben Zadkovich. The Jets are also blessed in wide areas with the pace and cunning of Ali Abbas and Kiwi winger cum striker Jeremy Brockie. Big things are expected of the Kiwi this year and fans are hoping that he can have a free run with injuries so that he can finally deliver on his undoubted potential. The one area where the Novocastrians are perceived as being light are in forward areas and much of this pressure will rest on the now experienced shoulders of Ryan Griffiths. The 30 year old says he is feeling as sharp as ever and ready to produce for Newcastle after a less than auspicious beginning when he came in midway through last year.

If the Jets can put aside the dramas of the past few days it is looking to be an exciting year for the team both on and off the pitch. The Jets have a youthful, energetic and pacy look about them on the pitch and will be well supported by the almost 10,000 members who have signed up for the season. Injuries will again play a crucial role in the outcome of the season. Few people remember that aside from the Roar, Newcastle was the form team midway through last season until a crippling injury toll eventually put paid to their title chances. Most observers have written off the chances of the side but this may be a little premature. Finals football should be achievable for this group, providing they can put aside the dramas of the last couple of days.



Perth Glory

INS:
Evan Berger (Melb Victory)
Travis Dodd (Adelaide United)
Adam Hughes (Adelaide United)
Andre Luiz Rodrigues Lopes (Consadole Sapporo, Japan)
Jesse Makarounas (AIS)
Liam Miller Hibernian, Scotland)
Billy Mehmet (Samsunspor, Turkey)
Shane Smeltz (Gold Coast United)
Neil Young (Newcastle Jets)
Bas van den Brink (Busan I'Park, Korea)
Danny Vukovic (Wellington Phoenix)

OUTS:
Robbie Fowler (Muangthong United, Thailand)
Branko Jelic (released)
Anthony Skorich (released)
Aleks Vrteski (Solo FC, Indonesia)
Tando Velaphi (Melb Victory)
Michael Baird (Mariners)
Naum Sekulovski (released)
Andy Todd (Oldham Athletic, England)
Andrija Jukic (Bogor Raya, Indonesia)
Jamie Harnwell (Sorrento)
Brent Griffiths (released)
Howard Fondyke (released)

Glory years to return to the West

By Ashley Morrison

The start of each season of the Hyundai A league Perth Glory fan's hearts have been filled with hope, that this will be the season that the club may get close to the levels at which the club finished the NSL. Just one finals appearance has meant that virtually each season has ended in disappointment.

Last season proved one of the most depressing so far. The decision to let David Mitchell move upstairs destabilized the club and it was reflected by the results on the park, which were no less than woeful.

The Hatt Review – a review into the club by David Hatt – highlighted a number of areas for change, yet this season's recruiting appears in the main to have ignored many of those recommendations.

There is no doubt that coach Ian Ferguson has assembled what on paper looks a strong squad, that has cover in virtually every position; quite how it has been assembled within the salary cap is one question doing the rounds.

However the big question is can the team turn what looks good on paper into results on the park? If they don't then questions will have to be asked.

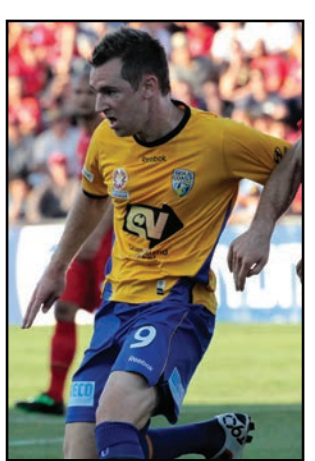
The club has made many new signings this season, in has come proven goal scorer Shane Smeltz as a marquee signing for three years. Goalkeeper Danny Vukovic has also joined and these two would appear to be two of the best signings from



Travis Dodd switches to Perth from Adelaide United. Photo: PETER NEVILLE



Liam Miller arrives in Australia with a deadly reputation from Europe. Photo: SYDNEY LOW



Shane Smeltz joins the Glory revolution and is worth his weight in goals. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Glory fans hope Mile Sterjovski can find his shooting boots again. Photo: ANITA MILAS

within the A League. Both have proven track records and can do a job at both ends of the park.

Joining Smeltz up front is Bill Mehmet who has so far looked to be the perfect foil for the New Zealander. He is strong in the air and works extremely hard off the ball, and importantly he knows where the back of the net is. If kept fit these two could form a very fruitful partnership.

In midfield Ferguson has recruited well. Adam Hughes joining from Adelaide has linked up well with import Liam Miller, who has a touch of class when it comes to distribution and could well be the link man that Perth Glory have missed for so long. Miller comes with a reputation of sometimes having issues off the pitch, it is hoped that these are behind him, as he could well become the star of Perth Glory this season.

Also in midfield is AIS recruit Jesse Makarounas, who has matured as a player but will probably be peripheral this season. Also coming in is Travis Dodd from Adelaide, who can on his day destroy teams, what is encouraging is the pressure being put on Dodd by Tommy Amphlett who has looked extremely sharp in pre-season. Dodd is likely to get the nod, but a stronger and smarter Amphlett could well be a hugely successful impact player of the bench, if given enough time to make an impact.

The defence is an area of concern. On the right youngsters Scott Neville and Josh Risdon will vie for the right back position. Centrally it will see a combination of Chris Coyne, back from injury, Josh Mitchell and new recruit Bas van den Brink, which although strong aerially lacks a little

pace and could be found wanting against a quick attack; although van den Brink has proved he is a greater reader of the game, which compensates for his lack of pace.

It is however left back and possibly left midfield where the Glory's season could come unraveled. The underachieving Mile Sterjovski has been occupying the wide left role in midfield along with injury replacement for Victor Sikora, Andrezinho. Neither has looked that impressive, but more importantly neither likes to defend.

The left back position has been filled by Todd Howarth and Evan Berger, the latter having joined from Melbourne Victory. The same problem applies with these two players, they look good going forward but suspect defensively.

The Hatt review recommended

younger players but Ferguson like his predecessor, being on a one-year deal, has opted for experience to lift the team into the finals and obtain another year's contract. As stated he has recruited a solid squad and one that should be competitive, but it could well come down to these players staying fit and available.

The team has a spine, it has flair on the flanks, and it has a proven goal scorer up front. If it all clicks Perth Glory could well start putting a smile back on the faces of their patient and loyal fans.

In reality, they should expect a mid-table finish. They will score goals, but they may well concede many unless Vukovic is in inspired form. This is a good team, better than in recent years, but is still far from being a team that can challenge for honours come the season's end.



Sydney FC

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. REDDY Liam | G |
| 2. RYALL Sebastian | D |
| 3. COYNE Jamie | D |
| 4. BOSSCHAART Pascal | D |
| 5. BEAUCHAMP Michael | D |
| 6. MORIYASU Hirofumi | M |
| 7. EMERTON Brett | M |
| 8. KISEL Karol | M |
| 9. CONSTANTINO Bruno | F |
| 10. CARLE Nicholas | M |
| 11. PETRATOS Dimitrios | M |
| 12. COLE Shannon | D |
| 15. McFLYNN Terrence | M |
| 16. CHIANESE Joel | M |
| 17. ANTONIS Terry | M |
| 18. MAKELA Juho | F |
| 19. BRIDGE Mark | F |
| 20. NECEVSKI Ivan | G |
| 21. JAMIESON Scott | D |
| 22. SHERLOCK Nathan | D |
| 23. GRANT Rhyan | M |

- Ins**
- Jamie Coyne (Perth Glory)
Michael Beauchamp (Melbourne Heart)
Pascal Bosschaart (ADO Den Haag)
Brett Emerton (Blackburn Rovers)
Karol Kisel (Slavia Prague)
Joel Chianese (Sydney FC Youth)
Nathan Sherlock (Sydney FC Youth)

- Outs**
- Stephan Keller (released)
Hayden Foxe (Retired)
Brendan Gan (released)
Stuart Musialik (Central Coast)
Kofi Danning (Brisbane Roar)
Anthony Golec (released)
Matt Jurman (Brisbane Roar)
Sung-Hwan Byun (Newcastle Jets)



Wellington Phoenix

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Mark Paston | G |
| 20. Tony Warner | G |
| 2. Manny Muscat | M |
| 3. Tony Lochhead | D |
| 4. Brent Griffiths | D |
| 6. Tim Brown | D |
| 7. Leo Bertos | M |
| 8. Paul Ifill | F |
| 9. Chris Greenacre | F |
| 11. Daniel | M |
| 13. Niko Tsattalios | D |
| 14. Mirjan Pavlovic | F |
| 17. Vince Lia | M |
| 18. Ben Sigmund | D |
| 19. Jimmy Downey | D |
| 21. Dani Sanchez | M |
| 22. Andrew Durante | D (C) |
| 23. Lucas Pantelis | M |

- Ins:**
- Jimmy Downey (North Queensland Fury)
Dani Sanchez (Inverness Caledonian Thistle)
Lucas Pantelis (Adelaide United)
Niko Tsattalios (Sutherland Sharks)
Tony Warner (Tranmere Towers)
Brent Griffiths (Perth Glory)

- Outs:**
- Reece Crowther (released)
Nicky Ward (Iraklis Thessaloniki)
Diego Walsh (released)
Toto (released)
James Musa (released)
Troy Hearfield (Central Coast Mariners)
Jade North (FC Tokyo)
Danny Vukovic (Perth Glory)
Marco Rojas (Melbourne Victory)
Dylan Macallister (Breioblik)

Emerton to ignite Sky Blues

By Mike Salter

If the 2009/10 A-League season saw Sydney FC at their confident best, the 2010/11 campaign provided a stark contrast. With their marquee star chronically injured and their other new signings failing to fire, it was a season to forget for the fans. They have every reason to hope for better in 2011/12.

Vitezslav Lavicka remains at the helm, and he will be delighted to welcome his protege Karol Kisel back to the Sydney Football Stadium. The sturdy midfielder's shrewd movement and occasional eye for goal were much missed in 2010/11, and his combination with the two nominal stars of the side will be crucial to any success Sydney may taste in 2011/12.

The big off-season news, of course, has been the arrival of Brett Emerton. The former Sydney Olympic, Feyenoord and Blackburn Rovers winger (or right fullback) has been a superb servant of the Socceroos for over a decade, and brings a wealth of experience, not to mention his trademark strength and pace along the touchline, to the squad. The prevailing mood among Sydney FC fans is that their club's marquee man may, in the long term, prove of greater value on the field than the still injury-prone Harry Kewell.

2010/11 was hardly a vintage season for Nick Carle, whose flashes of undoubted class were largely obscured by his spells on the sideline, and a few insipid performances



Brett Emerton returns to Australia after an illustrious stint playing in the English EPL for Blackburn Rovers. Photo: Goeff Jones

around the middle of the season. This season will be the litmus test for the much-travelled international, whose reputation as one of the most gifted players of his generation has not yet been confirmed during his spell in the sky blue of Sydney FC.

Up front, the foreign duo of Brazilian Bruno Cazarine and Finn Juho Makela should pose problems to even the strongest defences. Both are at their best in the air, but the strength and poise of Cazarine, and Mahela's infectious enthusiasm and constant movement, are undoubted assets as well. Mark Bridge, operating either in the hole or as one of the strikers, should see plenty of game time during 2011/12 as well.

At the back, there have been a couple of important changes. Stephan

Keller, powerful in the air but suspect on the ground, has moved on. In his place comes Michael Beauchamp, whose quality has been evident at international as well as club level. The acquisition of Dutch defensive journeyman Pascal Bosschaart is a useful one, and Sebastian Ryall appears to be maturing nicely.

With Byun Sung-Hwan moving up the highway to join the Newcastle Jets, the fullback slots are likely to be filled by Shannon Cole and new signing Jamie Coyne. The latter's arrival failed to enthuse the fans, but his solid performances in friendlies have won them over to some extent. Cole can operate in midfield as well, and he may end up jostling for a place with Scott Jamieson, whose first season with Sydney FC after cross-



Nick Carle has been in sensational pre-season form and will be the kingpin for the Sydneysiders. Photo: Goeff Jones

ing the Barrier Range in 2010/11 was a considerable disappointment. For the younger brigade, it will be a challenge to break into what looks like an imposing first team. But the likes of Dimitri Petratos and Terry Antonis, both youngsters from whom great things are expected, should see plenty of action. Petratos enjoyed a period as a first-team regular last term, and certainly did not look out of place in the A-League.

Sydney FC's results in pre-season friendlies have not been especially convincing. A 1-0 defeat at the hands of state league premiers Sydney Olympic followed a 3-0 thrashing at the hands of the Sutherland Sharks on the artificial turf of Seymour Shaw Park. After tasting the competitive sharpness of the NSW Premier

League sides, Lavicka's team went on to face some fellow A-Leaguers; a 1-0 loss to Newcastle at Cessnock was not well received by the fans, who considered the team underdone and unimaginative; things improved, however, in a 2-2 draw with Perth Glory on 24 September, in which star man Brett Emerton made his presence felt with a penalty goal and an assist.

A finals place is a more than realistic aim for Sydney FC this time around, and with the quality of Carle, Emerton and Kisel at Lavicka's disposal, he can aspire to go further. But a certain lack of real quality up front, occasioned by the loss of the multi-talented Alex Brosque, may yet be enough to prevent them from acquiring the top honours in 2011/12.

Phoenix to rise from the ashes

By Joe Gallagher

After the off season Wellington Phoenix have had, the players will be pleased just to get back on the park.

This side of the Tasman, the headlines for the past five months have been about new owners, rather than new players. Terry Serepisos' ownership saga dragged on so long that the Phoenix now finds itself in the enviable position – just a week out from the start of the season – of still needing to fill two spots on the roster just to compete.

But at least the saga has ended. With Serepisos relinquishing the club and a Wellington based consortium led by Rob Morrison stepping in, fans will be hopeful that the new owners can breathe new life into the team. Now with some stability around the club, Wellington might now be able to push forward. The goal this season is a third consecutive playoffs spot, according to coach Ricki Herbert.

They may struggle to reach that mark. While they field a reasonably competitive first eleven, the club will have to overcome a lack of depth and traditionally poor away form. But the side will still believe they can reach the finals, and the club still has time to bring in a quality signing (or two).

The Phoenix's transfer activity this off-season has seemingly been tied in with their off field problems. Marcelo Rigters trialled once with the Phoenix, failed to agree terms and promptly signed with Gold Coast



The Phoenix hopes to put the off field turmpil behind them and do the business on the park. Photo: MARK McGEADY

United. Billy Mehmet impressed while trialling at the Wellington and joined Perth Glory instead. The club's new owners will be hoping to nip this trend in the bud as soon as possible, in the search for the roster's completion and the possibility of a marquee signing.

Wellington will also miss Nick Ward (Greece), the flair of Danny Vukovic (Perth), and the consistency shown by Dylan Macallister (Gold Coast) towards the end of last campaign. But it's the exodus of Marco Rojas (Melbourne) will sting the most for the Yellow Fever – his pace, skill and creativity was the link around which much of Wellington's attack towards the end of last season was centred. There has, at least, been some transfer activity from Ricki Herbert. The signing of Lucas Pantelis from Adelaide will go some way to filling

the void left by Rojas' exit across the ditch. New signings Jimmy Downey (Sparta Rotterdam), Nik Tsattalios (Sutherland Sharks), Tony Warner (Tranmere Rovers), Brent Griffiths and Spaniard Dani Sanchez (both free agents) will feel they have a lot to offer. Downey promises pace at the back, Sanchez joins the long list of creative attacking talents bought into the club since their inception, and Griffiths, Tsattalios and Warner will provide important backup to the likes of Andrew Durante, Ben Sigmund, and Mark Paston.

But the problem for Wellington will be if these 'backups' fail to fire. An injury to a key player is no foreign concept to the Phoenix. The likes of Paston, Lochhead, and Ifill all suffered significant injuries last term. Already this season, Pantelis from Adelaide will go some way to filling

for the first four and six weeks, respectively.

Should Durante, Sigmund, or Paul Ifill pick up a knock, the pressure will be on Griffiths, Tsattalios and Sanchez to step up. The Yellow Fever will be desperately hoping these players can ably plug the gaps. The Phoenix will have to step up their dreadful away form. In the past, Wellington has clung to their home form to get across the line. Last season they picked up just 8 points away from Westpac Stadium. Away form has cursed them since season one. If the Phoenix is to feature in the post season, this is a figure that needs to rise. And quickly.

Phoenix's build up to the season has hardly gone swimmingly, either. Thrashed by Brisbane in Dunedin and well beaten by Central Coast in Tauranga, their only wins in a



The experience of Ricki Herbert will be essential for Phoenix's campaign. Photo: MARK McGEADY



Yellow Fever fans will look to Paul Ifill to terrorise defenders again this season Photo: MARK McGEADY

disjointed pre-season have been against local and invitational sides. A 2-2 draw away at Melbourne Heart is hardly a highlight of an off season. But Wellington will go into their opening fixture with Gold Coast high on confidence. Wellington has traditionally played well against United. They are the only side bookies here favour more than the Phoenix to finish bottom. The Phoenix will be keen to impress their new owners. And Wellington will simply be looking forward to kicking a ball in anger, after a pre season that has been far longer than it should have been for the Phoenix.

If the Phoenix can fire away from home and bulk up the squad by the start of the season, they might reach their goals. If not, it could be a very long season in Wellington.



HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE 2011/12 SEASON DRAW

www.goalweekly.com



Week 1

Sat 8 Oct 2011
Sat 8 Oct 2011
Sat 8 Oct 2011
Sun 9 Oct 2011
Sun 9 Oct 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Newcastle Jets v Melbourne Heart	Ausgrid Stadium	4:30pm	4:30pm
Melbourne Victory v Sydney FC	Etihad Stadium	6:30pm	6:30pm
Brisbane Roar v Central Coast Mariners	Suncorp Stadium	7:45pm	8:45pm
Gold Coast United v Wellington Phoenix	Skilled Park	4:00pm	5:00pm
Perth Glory v Adelaide United	nib Stadium	4:30pm	7:30pm

Week 2

Fri 14 Oct 2011
Sat 15 Oct 2011
Sat 15 Oct 2011
Sun 16 Oct 2011
Sun 16 Oct 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Adelaide United v Melbourne Victory	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Central Coast Mariners v Gold Coast United	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar	Sydney Football Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Wellington Phoenix v Newcastle Jets	Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
Melbourne Heart v Perth Glory	AAMI Park	5:00pm	5:00pm

Week 3

Fri 21 Oct 2011
Sat 22 Oct 2011
Sat 22 Oct 2011
Sun 23 Oct 2011
Sun 23 Oct 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Brisbane Roar v Gold Coast United	Suncorp Stadium	7:30pm	8:30pm
Adelaide United v Sydney FC	Hindmarsh Stadium	5:00pm	5:30pm
Melbourne Victory v Melbourne Heart	Etihad Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Newcastle Jets v Central Coast Mariners	Ausgrid Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm
Perth Glory v Wellington Phoenix	nib Stadium	4:30pm	7:30pm

Week 4

Fri 28 Oct 2011
Sat 29 Oct 2011
Sat 29 Oct 2011
Sun 30 Oct 2011
Sun 30 Oct 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Brisbane Roar v Adelaide United	Suncorp Stadium	7:00pm	8:00pm
Central Coast Mariners v Perth Glory	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Melbourne Heart v Sydney FC	AAMI Park	7:45pm	7:45pm
Wellington Phoenix v Melbourne Victory	Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
Gold Coast United v Newcastle Jets	Skilled Park	4:00pm	5:00pm

Week 5

Fri 4 Nov 2011
Fri 4 Nov 2011
Sat 5 Nov 2011
Sat 5 Nov 2011
Sun 6 Nov 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Wellington Phoenix v Central Coast Mariners	Westpac Stadium	7:30pm	5:30pm
Adelaide United v Melbourne Heart	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory	Ausgrid Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar	Etihad Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Sydney FC Gold Coast United	Sydney Football Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm

Week 6

Fri 11 Nov 2011
Sat 12 Nov 2011
Sat 12 Nov 2011
Sat 12 Nov 2011
Sun 13 Nov 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Adelaide United v Gold Coast United	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Melbourne Heart v Newcastle Jets	AAMI Park	5:30pm	5:30pm
Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Victory	Bluetongue Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Perth Glory v Sydney FC	nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
Brisbane Roar v Wellington Phoenix	Suncorp Stadium	4:00pm	5:00pm

Week 7

Fri 18 Nov 2011
Sat 19 Nov 2011
Sat 19 Nov 2011
Sat 19 Nov 2011
Sun 20 Nov 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Gold Coast United v Melbourne Heart	Skilled Park	7:00pm	8:00pm
Wellington Phoenix v Adelaide United	Eden Park, Auckland	5:00pm	3:00pm
Newcastle Jets v Brisbane Roar	Ausgrid Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Sydney FC v Central Coast Mariners	Sydney Football Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Melbourne Victory v Perth Glory	Etihad Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm

Week 8

Fri 25 Nov 2011
Sat 26 Nov 2011
Sat 26 Nov 2011
Sun 27 Nov 2011
Sun 27 Nov 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Heart	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory	Suncorp Stadium	6:45pm	7:45pm
Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC	Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
Melbourne Victory v Gold Coast United	AAMI Park	5:00pm	5:00pm

Week 9

Fri 2 Dec 2011
Sat 3 Dec 2011
Sat 3 Dec 2011
Sun 4 Dec 2011
Sun 4 Dec 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Adelaide United v Central Coast Mariners	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Newcastle Jets v Melbourne Victory	Ausgrid Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Perth Glory v Gold Coast United	nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
Melbourne Heart v Wellington Phoenix	Latrobe Cplx, Morwell	3:00pm	3:00pm
Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar	Sydney Football Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm

Regional

Wed 7 Dec 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Sydney FC v Perth Glory	Campbelltown Stadium	7.30pm	7.30pm

Week 10

Fri 9 Dec 2011
Sat 10 Dec 2011
Sat 10 Dec 2011
Sat 10 Dec 2011
Sun 11 Dec 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Heart	Suncorp Stadium	7:00pm	8:00pm
Wellington Phoenix v Perth Glory	Westpac Stadium	5:00pm	3:00pm
Central Coast Mariners v Newcastle Jets	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Melbourne Victory v Adelaide United	Etihad Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Gold Coast United v Sydney FC	Skilled Park	4:00pm	5:00pm

Regional

Wed 14 Dec 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Wellington Phoenix v Brisbane Roar	Forsyth Barr Strm, Dunedin	7.30pm	5.30pm

Week 11

Fri 16 Dec 2011
Sat 17 Dec 2011
Sat 17 Dec 2011
Sat 17 Dec 2011
Sun 18 Dec 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Adelaide United v Gold Coast United	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Newcastle Jets v Sydney FC	Ausgrid Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Brisbane Roar v Central Coast Mariners	Suncorp Stadium	6:45pm	7:45pm
Perth Glory v Melbourne Heart	nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
Melbourne Victory v Wellington Phoenix	AAMI Park	5:00pm	5:00pm

Week 12

Thur 22 Dec 2011
Fri 23 Dec 2011
Fri 23 Dec 2011
Fri 23 Dec 2011
Mon 26 Dec 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Sydney FC v Adelaide United	Sydney Football Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm
Wellington Phoenix v Newcastle Jets	Westpac Stadium	7:30pm	5:30pm
Melbourne Heart v Melbourne Victory	AAMI Park	8:00pm	8:00pm
Perth Glory v Central Coast Mariners	nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
Gold Coast United v Brisbane Roar	Skilled Park	6:30pm	7:30pm

Week 13

Thur 29 Dec 2011
Fri 30 Dec 2011
Sat 31 Dec 2011
Sat 31 Dec 2011
Sat 31 Dec 2011

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Sydney FC v Melbourne Heart	Sydney Football Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm
Adelaide United v Wellington Phoenix	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory	Ausgrid Stadium	4:00pm	4:00pm
Central Coast Mariners v Gold Coast United	Bluetongue Stadium	6:15pm	6:15pm
Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Victory	Suncorp Stadium	7:30pm	8:30pm

Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

Midweek
Wed 4 Jan 2012
Wed 4 Jan 2012
Wed 4 Jan 2012
Wed 4 Jan 2012
Wed 4 Jan 2012

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC	Westpac Stadium	3:00pm	1:00pm
Melbourne Heart v Adelaide United	AAMI Park	3:15pm	3:15pm
Newcastle Jets v Gold Coast United	Ausgrid Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Victory	Bluetongue Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Perth Glory v Brisbane Roar	nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm

Week 14

Sat 7 Jan 2012
Sat 7 Jan 2012
Sun 8 Jan 2012
Sun 8 Jan 2012
Sun 8 Jan 2012

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Adelaide United v Brisbane Roar	Hindmarsh Stadium	5:00pm	5:30pm
Melbourne Victory v Newcastle Jets	AAMI Park	7:45pm	7:45pm
Wellington Phoenix v Perth Glory	Westpac Stadium	4:00pm	2:00pm
Sydney FC v Central Coast Mariners	Sydney Football Stadium	4:00pm	4:00pm
Gold Coast United v Melbourne Heart	Skilled Park	5:30pm	6:30pm

Week 15

Fri 13 Jan 2012
Fri 14 Jan 2012
Sat 14 Jan 2012
Sun 15 Jan 2012
Sun 15 Jan 2012
Wed 18 Jan 2012

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Melbourne Victory v Adelaide United	AAMI Park	8:00pm	8:00pm
Central Coast Mariners v Newcastle Jets	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Brisbane Roar v Sydney FC	Suncorp Stadium	6:45pm	7:45pm
Melbourne Heart v Perth Glory	AAMI Park	4:00pm	4:00pm
Gold Coast United v Wellington Phoenix	Skilled Park	5:30pm	6:30pm
Melbourne Heart v Central Coast Mariners	AAMI Park	5:30pm	5:30pm

Week 16

Fri 20 Jan 2012
Sat 21 Jan 2012
Sat 21 Jan 2012
Sun 22 Jan 2012
Sun 22 Jan 2012

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Newcastle Jets v Wellington Phoenix	Ausgrid Stadium	8:00pm	8:00pm
Central Coast Mariners v Adelaide United	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Melbourne Heart v Brisbane Roar	TBC7:45pm7:45pm		
Sydney FC v Gold Coast United	Sydney Football Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm
Perth Glory v Melbourne Victory	nib Stadium	4:30pm	7:30pm

Regional

Wed 25 Jan 2012

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets	Carrington Park, Bathurst	7.30pm	7.30pm

Week 17

Thur 26 Jan 2012
Fri 27 Jan 2012
Sat 28 Jan 2012
Sun 29 Jan 2012
Sun 29 Jan 2012
Wed 1 Feb 2012

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Melbourne Victory v Sydney FC	AAMI Park	4:00pm	4:00pm
Gold Coast United v Central Coast Mariners	Skilled Park	7:00pm	8:00pm
Brisbane Roar v Newcastle Jets	Suncorp Stadium	6:45pm	7:45pm
Wellington Phoenix v Melbourne Heart	Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
Adelaide United v Perth Glory	Hindmarsh Stadium	4:30pm	5:00pm
Melbourne Victory v Gold Coast United	Aurora Stadium, Launceston	7:30pm	7:30pm

Week 18

Fri 3 Feb 2012
Sat 4 Feb 2012
Sat 4 Feb 2012
Sun 5 Feb 2012
Mon 6 Feb 2012

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Adelaide United v Wellington Phoenix	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Central Coast Mariners v Brisbane Roar	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Melbourne Heart v Melbourne Victory	AAMI Park	7:45pm	7:45pm
Sydney FC v Newcastle Jets	Sydney Football Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm
Perth Glory v Gold Coast United	nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm

Week 19

Fri 10 Feb 2012
Sat 11 Feb 2012
Sat 11 Feb 2012
Sun 12 Feb 2012
Sun 12 Feb 2012

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Melbourne Victory v Central Coast Mariners	AAMI Park	8:00pm	8:00pm
Newcastle Jets v Melbourne Heart	Ausgrid Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Sydney FC v Perth Glory	Sydney Football Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Wellington Phoenix v Brisbane Roar	Westpac Stadium	5:00pm	3:00pm
Gold Coast United v Adelaide United	Skilled Park	4:30pm	5:30pm

Week 20

Fri 17 Feb 2012
Sat 18 Feb 2012
Sat 18 Feb 2012
Sat 18 Feb 2012
Sun 19 Feb 2012

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Melbourne Heart v Gold Coast United	AAMI Park	8:00pm	8:00pm
Central Coast Mariners v Wellington Phoenix	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Victory	Suncorp Stadium	6:45pm	7:45pm
Perth Glory v Newcastle Jets	nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
Adelaide United v Sydney FC	Hindmarsh Stadium	4:30pm	5:00pm

Week 21

Fri 24 Feb 2012
Sat 25 Feb 2012
Sat 25 Feb 2012
Sat 25 Feb 2012
Sun 26 Feb 2012

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Newcastle Jets v Adelaide United	Ausgrid Stadium	8:00pm	8:00pm
Sydney FC v Wellington Phoenix	Sydney Football Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Gold Coast United v Melbourne Victory	Skilled Park	6:45pm	7:45pm
Perth Glory v Brisbane Roar	nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
Melbourne Heart v Central Coast Mariners	AAMI Park	5:00pm	5:00pm

Week 22

Fri 2 Mar 2012
Sat 3 Mar 2012
Sat 3 Mar 2012
Sun 4 Mar 2012
Sun 4 Mar 2012

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Heart	Suncorp Stadium	7:00pm	8:00pm
Melbourne Victory v Newcastle Jets	AAMI Park	5:30pm	5:30pm
Central Coast Mariners v Sydney FC	Bluetongue Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC	Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
Adelaide United v Perth Glory	Hindmarsh Stadium	4:30pm	5:00pm

Week 23

Fri 9 Mar 2012
Sat 10 Mar 2012
Sat 10 Mar 2012
Sun 11 Mar 2012
Sun 11 Mar 2012

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Newcastle Jets v Gold Coast United	Ausgrid Stadium	8:00pm	8:00pm
Melbourne Heart v Wellington Phoenix	AAMI Park	5:30pm	5:30pm
Sydney FC v Melbourne Victory	Sydney Football Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Brisbane Roar v Adelaide United	Suncorp Stadium	4:00pm	5:00pm
Perth Glory v Central Coast Mariners	nib Stadium	4:30pm	7:30pm

Week 24

Fri 16 Mar 2012
Sat 17 Mar 2012
Sat 17 Mar 2012
Sun 18 Mar 2012
Sun 18 Mar 2012

Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Melbourne Victory v Wellington Phoenix	AAMI Park	8:00pm	8:00pm
Central Coast Mariners v Adelaide United	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Melbourne Heart v Sydney FC	AAMI Park	7:45pm	7:45pm
Newcastle Jets v Brisbane Roar	Ausgrid Stadium	4:00pm	4:00pm
Gold Coast United v Perth Glory	Skilled Park	5:30pm	6:30pm

Week 25

Fri 23 Mar 2012
Sat 24 Mar 2012
Sun 25 Mar 2012
Sun 25 Mar 2012
Sun 25 Mar 2012

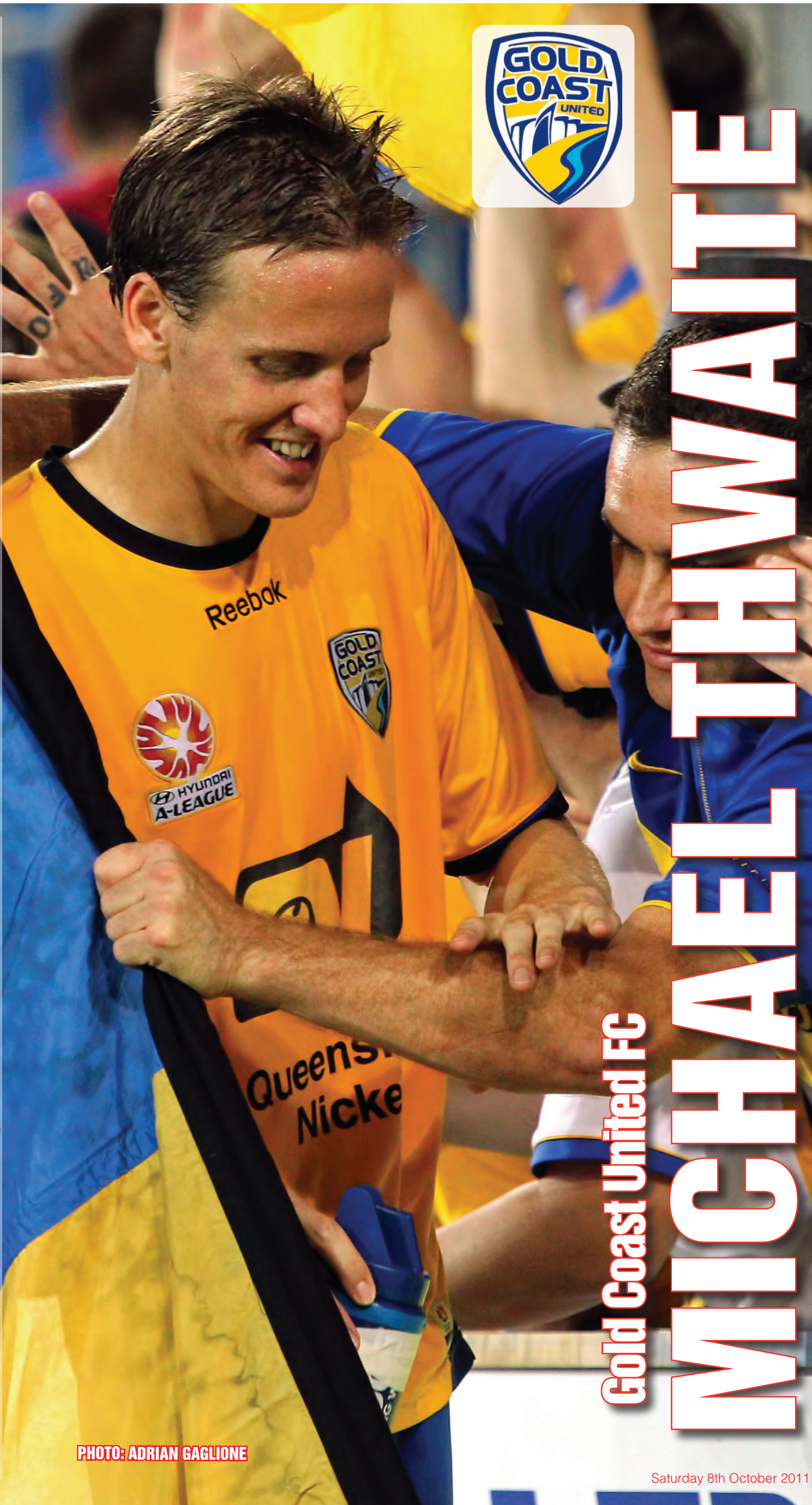
Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Adelaide United v Melbourne Heart	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Perth Glory v Melbourne Victory	nib Stadium	6:30pm	9:30pm
Wellington Phoenix v Central Coast Mariners	Westpac Stadium	4:00pm	2:00pm
Sydney FC v Newcastle Jets	Sydney Football Stadium	4:00pm	4:00pm
Gold Coast United v Brisbane Roar	Skilled Park	5:30pm	6:30pm

Finals: Week 1 (30 March-1 April), Week 2 (6-8 April), Week 3 (13-15 April), Week 4 Grand Final (Sun 22 April 2012)

Sold at all good newsagents every Friday.



FULL NAME: Michael Thwaite
BIRTHPLACE: Brisbane, QLD
BIRTH DATE: 02/05/83
HEIGHT: 190cm
WEIGHT: 83kg
MARRIED: Yes
CAR: Honda Jazz
NICKNAME: Thwaitey
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Marconi, FL National, Wisla, Brann, Melbourne Victory
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Socceroos, U23, U20
INDIVIDUAL HONOURS: Gold Coast United Players' Player of the Year 09/10, Gold Coast United Player of the Year 10/11
TEAM HONOURS: Polish Champions (Wisla) 07/08, Hyundai A-League Champions (Melb Vic) 08/09
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Frank Farina
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Ronaldo (Brazil)
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Archie Thompson
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Paul Okon
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Vince Grella
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Australia v Jamaica (my debut) 2005
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Australia v Iran (Melb) WCQ 1997
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: I scored in an Olympic qualifier at U23 level – so rare I can't remember much about it
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Undefeated for 3 years with Saints in Cairns
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Zenon Caravella mooning!
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Missing World Cup in 2006
WORST INJURY: Shoulder reconstruction
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Recoba (Uruguay)
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: AAMI Park
SUPERSTITIONS: Cleaning boots, breakfast on matchdays
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Pasta or toasted sandwich
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Passing and stamina
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Scoring goals!
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: the Broncos!!
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Cricket
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Darren Lockyer
FAVOURITE FOODS: Bananas
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Will Ferrell
HOBBIES: Going to the beach or the movies
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Anywhere in Cairns
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Don't have one
IDEAL DATE: My wife and baby girl, Portia
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Eastbound & Down
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Eminem, Michael Jackson
FAVOURITE FILM: Anchorman
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Amini Gold Coast Utd shirt for Portia
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: I dance like Michael Jackson
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Dad
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Away trips
HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE GAME: Free tickets for U12s
ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS: Dream, believe, achieve and be happy
FOOTBALL AMBITION: Play at a World Cup
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?: Dr Dre
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Adelaide (because of Zenon!)



Gold Coast United FC

THWAITE

PHOTO: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

TOMORROW'S NEWS, TODAY.



Danny Invincible (St Johnstone)



James Holland (AZ Alkmaar)



Sasa Ogrenovski (Seongnam)



Adrian Zahra (Melbourne Heart)



Cameron Watson (Adelaide United)



Jack Hingert (Brisbane Roar)



Nick Kalmar (Melbourne Heart)



Mitch Langerak (Borussia Dortmund)

**GET GOAL! WEEKLY EVERY FRIDAY
AND GET A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE.**

AVAILABLE FROM ALL GOOD NEWSAGENTS SINCE 2005.



Les Shorrock's award winning picture of Melbourne Croatia goalkeeper Peter Blasby. It won the National Soccer Photo of the Year in 1982.
Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library

Les Shorrock, as the fans and players saw him, eyes on the ball, camera at the ready.

Les Shorrock

BLAST FROM THE PAST



With Roy Hay

Les Shorrock was one of kind. I knew him through the game of football with which we were both involved but this was only a part of an extraordinary life. Les arrived from England in January 1958 to be greeted by a Melbourne heatwave. He and wife Eileen and son Brian, and with another baby on the way, went through the migrant camp in Brooklyn. He worked as a manual labourer like many skilled migrants, and then had a variety of occupations. After couple of years the Shorrocks returned to England, but by May 1961 they realised they had made a mistake and came back to Melbourne.

I started to count up the number of jobs/careers Les had or might have had, and gave up after about twenty. I can still imagine the sigh of relief in the Shorrock household when he decided he was not going to become a professional punter. Especially after his experience as part-owner of a greyhound which never won a race. They could not run it on metropolitan tracks so on one occasion they went to Hay in New South Wales, where the dog was favoured to win. But the trainer demurred because the price was too short. So the poor dog had the biggest drink of its life and waddled home last, while the trainer backed the winner to make enough to pay the petrol money for the journey home.

Even within the game of football he has been player, coach, club and league administrator, union leader or if you prefer head of a professional organisation, referee, journalist, radio broadcaster, photographer, editor, newspaper publisher, author, historian, agent for the football pools and general promoter of the game he loved. I suspect I may have missed something even here.

Though he played the game in England and had a life long attachment to Stoke City, like many migrants from that country, he initially did not become involved with the game in Australia. Whether it was because he was trying to establish himself and his wife and young family in a new country or because he was quickly aware that the game in the 1950s lagged far behind that in Britain, Les did not use the game as an entry into Aus-

tralian society as some others did.

As he tells it himself, it was not till 1970 that a friend Ron Gibbs from Brighton in England, who had now moved to the USA and from there persuaded Les to visit him and go the World Cup in Mexico that year. That was probably the best World Cup ever, won by Brazil with Pele, Tostao, Gerson, Jairzinho and Carlos Alberto. Les saw England lose to Brazil and West Germany but the football bug had bitten and when he came home another friend Scott Frew persuaded him to join him on the committee of Sunshine City. In 1972 he became team manager as Sunshine was pipped for the title by Prahran Slavia. City came second again to Mooroolbark the next year, but finally won the league and promotion in 1974.

The following year yet another friend, Alan Knight, invited Les to join Brighton, which was closer to their home in Caulfield. He recruited Bobby McLachlan to play for and coach the team which began a long friendship. Though Bobby says it was tested when he could not find the ground they were supposed to play on at Ballarat until a few minutes before kick-off by which time Les was apoplectic and rude and Bobby was on the point of walking away until persuaded that the team needed him. After the game Les said, 'Can I buy you a drink?' the closest he ever came to apologising. Craig Mackenzie first came across Les as team manager at Brighton and watched as he shadowed the referee up and down the touchline until the official sent him back to the dugout. One phrase from Les was new to Craig. 'Ref your eyes are painted on.'

Very soon Les started writing about the game for the local paper so 'Shorrock's Soccer Snippets' kept the fans informed. He then took over from Jim Barker as the soccer correspondent for the Sunday Press. He also did work on radio with Jose Montes and was for a while on the Victorian Soccer Federation's Board of Management.

In 1976 the indefatigable Laurie Schwab recruited him to be his offsider on Soccer Action. Because the photographs they were getting for the paper were very poor and/or very late, Les began experimenting himself and eventually



Les Shorrock.
Source: Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

learned to develop and print his own work so that they could meet their deadlines. A six-pack of beer and a toasted sandwich secured access to the dark room from the picture manager. Soccer Action never cost the Age money for pictures.

As a casual on Soccer Action, Les held down a variety of other jobs to pay the bills, despite the fact that the paper took up a huge proportion of his week. Craig McKenzie, whom Les rates as one of the best journalists he has come across, joined the paper in 1979 and Craig these days contributes to Goal Weekly. Les's photographing skill improved to the point where he won the National Soccer Photographer of the Year award in 1982 for a brilliant picture of Peter Blasby making a flying save. He also won the same award in 1984 and 1985.

Les did not just take pictures he also wrote match reports for the paper. He hated going to watch Hakoah at Middle Park for there seldom any spectators and no one from the club with team sheets for the reporters. One day as the teams were lining up for kick-off, Les charged into the announcer's room, grabbed the mike and started introducing the few spectators sitting on the splintered wooden seats to the astonished players. As Craig Mackenzie tells it: "Right in front of me sits Joe Smith from Altona. That's his wife Ruby next

to him and they've taken their granddaughter Janine to the game today. And sitting next to the Smith family ..." and so forth. The bemused looks on the players' faces were priceless. We were in stitches in the pressbox, doubled over with tears of laughter streaming down our faces. When Les finished he swung open the door of the announcer's room and stormed past us saying: "Thank God I won't have to do that job ever again!"

In 1981 he toured Israel with the Young Socceroos as Australia prepared to host the World Youth Cup for the first time in October that year. Australia upset the mighty Argentina with a late goal in their opening match and the players and some supporters reacted badly. Les was on his knees taking pictures, including one of the Argentinian skipper spitting at him, which went round the world. The Age sports editor told Les, 'Send more violence'. Football was looked down upon in those days and any chance to treat it as foreign or violent was seized upon.

Though Australia did not make it to the World Cup in Spain in 1982, Les did and was the official photographer for the New Zealand Herald as a result of work he had done during the qualifying competition. He took Eileen with him and they had a marvelous time in Spain.

Laurie Schwab left Soccer Action in

1986. Craig Mackenzie took over as editor and Les became assistant. After only eleven issues in 1987 however the Age decided to close Soccer Action. Les and Craig were told to take all the magnificent collection of material they had assembled to the tip. Incensed, Les loaded some 20,000 photographs into the back of his Volvo station wagon to save them. Later he donated them to the Australian Soccer Federation, which in another act of wanton destruction decided to send them to refuse disposal. Luckily Helen Schwab and I got to hear of this and had them shipped back to Victoria.

Meanwhile Les continued to contribute to Australian Soccer Weekly in Sydney but he was determined to launch a paper of his own. Taking great risks and against the best advice of many of his friends he and three colleagues launched Soccer Star, which ran for two years and gave an opportunity for Rob Nelson and myself among others to write on the game in Victoria. Rob's piece was called Nelson's Column.

Les continued to work for the Age, both doing the real estate pictures and copy and producing a series of superb football photographs every week. His tartan bonnet and tall, slightly stooped figure was a fixture at football matches until his knees gave out and he retired in 1995.

Les came from a generation of football writers who were passionate about the game and what it meant. People like Andrew Dettre, Laurie Schwab, Kyle Patterson, Craig Mackenzie, Peter Desira. What united them was that they tried to uphold the standards of what was possible in this sport, what my Croatian friends call 'the most important of the unimportant things in life.' So their criticism was always intended to promote not denigrate the game, to defend it when it was under attack and did not deserve it but to hold it to account when it did. It was often uncomfortable when they had to draw attention to cases where their friends fell short, but they accepted the duty.

Football as we all know is a game of opinion, strong opinions, and Les held very strong opinions, and never feared from expressing them, no matter what the cost. Les was assiduous, careful in his fact gathering, clear and precise in his writing and he could make the game and its people come alive in words as well as pictures.

At the Age Les's nickname was 'Roundball' and when his former colleague Wayne Hawkins put round an email to the sports section saying Les had died he was surprised as the lack of response. So he sent a second saying 'Roundball' has gone and was inundated with stories and memories from the journos and others who remembered him.

Les has left us a huge legacy in the volumes of Soccer Action and Soccer Star which will be the sources for anyone interested in the history of the game and the social history of Australia since the

Second World War, and the thousands of photographs preserved in archival conditions at Deakin University's Waterfront campus in Geelong.

A feisty and independent spirit he survived at least three bad car accidents, including an encounter with the Geelong flyer in which he was seriously injured. His contribution to the game as a photographer and journalist is second to none. Virtually every player who has turned out for the leading clubs in Victoria and Australia will have a Les Shorrock picture in his photograph album. Last year his work was at the centre of a photographic exhibition on the history of the game at the National Sports Museum during the World Cup. His autobiography, My Charmed Life, gives a wonderful account of the sheer range of activities in which he was involved in the United Kingdom and Australia. The award for the best photograph of the year by the FFV is named for Les Shorrock.

Les could not have done half the things he did without the woman who loved and lived with him for 57 years. Eileen Shorrock is probably the only person in the world who could have coped with Les and kept him going when things were tough. I always think these programs on footballers wives are totally divorced from reality. You never see them washing the strip, serving in the canteens, acting a club secretary as Eileen did at Brighton, winning the clubman of the year award in the process and writing up match reports for the Metropolitan League. Les and Eileen did have some very tough times, losing their daughter Judy to cancer when she was far too young. Yet they turned that adversity into something positive with a substantial fund raising for the Victoria Cancer Council, something to which I hope you can all contribute today.

I just wonder if last Sunday morning when the news came through that Stoke City had held the might of Manchester United to a one-all draw at the Britannia ground, Les said to himself, 'We might not win the English Premier League this year, but that will do me. I'll be off now.' And it is time I was too. Echoing Bill Shankly to Jock Stein one day in Lisbon in 1967 when Celtic had just won the European Cup, 'Les Shorrock you are immortal.'

Editor's Note
I worked for Les at Soccer Star as a seventeen year old and he taught me everything I know. I am forever grateful to him for sharing so much knowledge, and in my eyes he is the forefather of Goal! Weekly. Everytime I was running late with with filing copy (which was very often) he would tell me, "You do know we're running a weekly here and not a monthly!"
I now find myself using that line on many of our budding journos.
Farewell for now, Les. You will be sorely missed.



Les Shorrock at last year's FFV Gold Medal Night with Anita Milas, Costa Koutropoulos, his wife Eileen Shorrock and Roy Hay. Photo: PETER PSARROS



Elias Denoudis (Neos Kosmos), Laurie Schwab (The Age), Leo Anezakis, Craig MacKenzie (Soccer Action). Photo: Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library

HARRY KEWELL

Melbourne Victory

The Fact File	
Full name:	Harold Kewell
Date of birth:	22 September 1978
Age:	33
Born:	Sydney, Australia
Height:	1.80 m (5 ft 11 in)
Youth Career	
1991–1995	Marconi Stallions
1995–1996	Leeds United
Senior Career Apps (Gls)	
1996–2003	Leeds United 181 (45)
2003–2008	Liverpool 93 (12)
2008–2011	Galatasaray 61 (23)
2011–	Melbourne Victory 0 (0)
National Team	
1994–1995	Australia U17 10 (1)
1997	Australia U20 3 (0)
1996–	Australia 54 (16)



MAIN PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Supporting your Passion





Line Ups

- 1. Ben Kennedy (gk)
- 2. Taylor Regan
- 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
- 5. Tiago Calvano
- 6. Ben Kantarovski
- 7. Kasey Wehrman
- 8. Jeremy Brockie
- 10. Ruben Zadkovich
- 11. Tarek Elrich
- 12. Jobe Wheelhouse (c)
- 13. Sung-Hwan Byun
- 14. Labinot Haliti
- 15. Chris Payne
- 17. James Virgili
- 18. Marko Jesic
- 19. Matthew Nash
- 22. Ali Abbas
- 23. Ryan Griffiths

Newcastle Jets v Melbourne Heart

Sat 8 Oct Ausgrid Stdm 4:30pm

The seven month wait for A-League football will finally end on Saturday afternoon when the Melbourne Heart travel to Newcastle to take on the Jets.

Whilst most of the media focus has been on the blue half of Melbourne this off season, the Heart has quietly assembled a quality squad that should be highly competitive. Brazilian maestro Fred will take the captains armband, and if he has half as much impact as he did in his first voyage to the A-League, then Heart fans will be in for a real treat.

The real test for the Heart will be finding consistency amongst a squad with lacking experience. Veterans John Aloisi, Josip Skoko and Gerald Sibon have all finished up at the Heart.

Whilst other experienced heads, Dean Heffernan and Michael Beauchamp have moved to other clubs within the A-League. Jon van't Schip has opted for players with skill and flair and goals should come from a mix of Ex-Fury striker David Williams, Ex-Victory midfielder Mate Dugandzic, Brazilian recruit Maycon and the diminutive Alex Terra. The defence was fairly average last season, and with rumours floating



The Jets get ready to rev their engines. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

TV: Live and exclusive on Fox Sports Radio: ABC Newcastle
Odds: Newcastle 2.2 Draw 3.2 Heart 3.35

around that Simon Colosimo might be looking elsewhere, Van't Schip may need to look to bolster this area. The Jets looked to have pulled off one of the biggest coups of the off season when they signed Gold Coast marquee man Jason Culina.

It's fair to say that the supposed 'coup' certainly hasn't worked out quite as they would've hoped. Firstly, Culina injured his knee and a reported two week injury was soon to be a six week injury, which then

became a 12 month injury, then came the bombshell. Less than half an hour after attending the season launch, Branko Culina was sacked by the Newcastle board.

The full story is yet to surface, but reports have it that information regarding his son Jasons knee was withheld from the club prior to signing the marquee man. Apart from the signing of Culina, Newcastle was fairly quiet on the transfer market adding Byun from Sydney and

Chris Payne from the now defunct North Queensland Fury.

You would think after the week that they've had, it would be near impossible for the Jets to get up for this match, but off field drama is all part of being a Newcastle player. I expect that the past week will galvanise the players and they should be able to pick up a win in front of a big home crowd.

Prediction:
Newcastle Jets 2-1

Head-to-Head: Played 3 - Newcastle Jets 1 win, Melbourne Heart 1 win, 1 draw
Referee: Ryan Shephard AR1: Murray Wilson AR1: Shaun Evans 4th Official: Kris Griffith-Jones

MELBOURNE
HEART



Line Ups

- 2. Michael MARRONE
- 3. Brendan HAMILL
- 5. FRED
- 6. Matt THOMPSON
- 7. Rutger WORM
- 8. Kristian SARKIES
- 9. MAYCON
- 10. Wayne SRHOJ
- 11. Alex TERRA
- 13. Jonatan GERMANO
- 15. David WILLIAMS
- 16. Aziz BEHICH
- 17. Jason HOFFMAN
- 18. Curtis GOOD
- 22. Nick KALMAR
- 23. Mate DUGANDZIC
- 24. Nikola ROGANOVIC (Gk)
- 30. Sebastian MATTEI (Gk)
- *three to be omitted*

Unavailable:
Simon Colosimo calf (2 weeks)
Clint Bolton groin (2 weeks)



Line Ups

- 2. Matthew Foschini
- 3. Fabio
- 4. Petar Franjic
- 6. Leigh Broxham
- 7. Matthew Kemp
- 8. Grant Brebner
- 9. Jean Carlos Solorzano
- 10. Archie Thompson
- 11. Marco Rojas
- 12. Rodrigo Vargas
- 13. Diogo Ferreira
- 14. Billy Celeski
- 15. Tom Pondeljak
- 17. Jimmy Jeggo
- 18. Danny Allsopp
- 19. Isaka Cernak
- 20. Lawrence Thomas (GK)
- 21. Ante Covic (GK)
- 22. Harry Kewell
- 23. Adrian Leijer (c)
- *Five to be omitted*

Unavailable:
Tando Velaphi (stress fracture)
Carlos Hernandez (international duty)

Melbourne Victory v Sydney FC

Sat 8 Oct Etihad Stadium 6:30pm

What better way to get the A-League season kick started than two traditional rivals battling it out in front of 40,000 people at Etihad Stadium?

Add to this two returning Soccerroo heroes and we have one of the biggest games in Australian domestic Football history. These two sides met in Round 1 last season with the Victory coming from 2-0 down to take the lead, before a late Shannon Cole free kick meant that the honours were shared. The two line ups will look a lot different this time around however, with both teams set to unveil some big name signings.

For the Victory; Kewell, Solorzano, Cernak, and Rojas will be hoping to start for their new club. Whilst Sydney has added Emerton, Coyne, Bosschaart, and Beauchamp. As well as Karol Kisel who returns after a brief hiatus from the club. Both these sides look to have an abundance of attacking riches.

For the home team Allsopp and Thompson should start up front, with Kewell in behind the strikers and Cernak and Rojas out on the wings. This setup would mean



Leijer and Vargas will have to be on their game to contain the likes of Emerton, Carle and Co. Photo: ANITA MILAS

TV: Live and exclusive on Fox Sports Radio: 1116 SEN and 774 ABC
Victory 2.12 Draw 3.3 Sydney 3.5

Celeski, Solorzano and Pondeljak on the bench; leaving Mehmet Durakovic is the envy of most other managers throughout the league. Sydney will try and dominate through the midfield and with Emerton, Carle and Kisel in the line up they certainly look to have an advantage in that area of the park.

What will be giving both managers headaches will be the make-up of their respective backs fours. Victory captain Adrian Leijer will

play an integral role this season and Durakovic which have to decide whether to partner him in central defence with the experienced Roddy Vargas or perhaps throw youngster Petar Franjic into the deep end. In goal for the Victory will be ex-Newcastle custodian, Ante Covic. Covic signed from Swedish side IF Elsborg during the week as cover for the injured Tando Velaphi and at the ripe old age of 36 will be eager to prove he's still amongst Australia's top

men between the sticks.

Sydney will give a debut to Michael Beauchamp who will be hoping to improve on a disappointing campaign with the Heart last season and he will probably be partnered by ex-Victory defender Seb Ryall. All in all I see this being a free flowing match with plenty of goals, but I fancy that the Victory will just get up in front of a parochial home crowd.

Prediction: Melbourne Victory 3-2 Sydney FC

Head-to-Head: Played 21 - Melbourne Victory 7 wins, Sydney FC 4 wins, 10 draws
Did you know? The next goal Melbourne Victory scores at Etihad Stadium will be Victory's 100th goal at the iconic Melbourne venue.



SYDNEY
FC

Line Ups

- 1. Liam Reddy
- 2. Sebastian Ryall
- 3. Jamie Coyne
- 4. Pascal Bosschaart
- 5. Michael Beauchamp
- 7. Brett Emerton
- 9. Bruno Cazarine
- 10. Nick Carle
- 11. Dimi Petratos
- 12. Shannon Cole
- 15. Terry McFlynn (capt)
- 17. Terry Antonis
- 19. Mark Bridge
- 20. Ivan Necevski
- 21. Scott Jamieson
- 23 Rhyan Grant
- *One to be omitted*

Unavailable:
Karol Kisel (calf) 1 week
Juho Makela (quad) 2 weeks



5-A-SIDE
INDOOR
SOCCER

LOCATIONS INCLUDE:
CAMBERWELL
COLLINGWOOD
CARLTON NORTH
VERMONT SOUTH
CAULFIELD
GLEN WAVERLEY
FOOTSCRAY
BOX HILL
PRESTON
HAWTHORN
CARLTON
ENDEAVOUR HILLS

MENS & MIXED
COMPETITIONS
0433 000 444
info@super5s.org
www.super5s.org



Line Ups

1. Michael Theoklitos (Gk)
 2. Matt Smith (C)
 3. Shane Stefanutto
 4. Matt Jurman
 5. Ivan Franjic
 6. Erik Paaratlu
 7. Besart Berisha
 8. Massimo Muroccca
 9. Kofi Danning
 10. Henrique
 11. Issey Nakajima-Farran
 16. Mohamed Adnan
 17. Mitch Nichols
 18. Luke Brattan
 19. Jack Hingert
 20. Andrew Redmayne
 21. James Meyer
 22. Thomas Broich
- *three to be omitted*

Unavailable:
12. Matt MUNDY (knee injury – 4 weeks)
14. Rocky VISCONTE (hamstring strain – 4 weeks)

Brisbane Roar v CC Mariners

Sat 8 Oct Suncorp Stdm 8:45pm

If Melbourne Vs Sydney is match of the round, then the Roar and the Mariners runs a very close second.

Last year's grand finalists meet on Saturday night and if the match goes anything like last year's decided then we're set for another beauty. The Central Coast will approach this match as a chance to gain some retribution after last season's heartbreaking defeat.

After leading by two goals in extra time the Mariners could only watch on as a rampant Brisbane stormed back into the game before taking the title on penalties.

As expected a handful of Roar stars were poached over the off season with prolific goalscorers Jean Carlos Solorzano and Kosta Barbarouses moving to Melbourne and Russia respectively. Whilst inspirational captain, Matt McKay obtained a dream move to Scottish giants Rangers. The Central Coast has had a pretty quiet off season with their main omission from the squad being diminutive Argentinian Patricio Perez. It's quite hard to get a gauge on where these two teams are at however I expect open attacking contest and for the Roar to extend their unbeaten



The Mariners aim to erase the memory of last season.
Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

TV: LIVE on FoxSports 1 RADIO: LIVE on Coast FM (96.3FM)
Odds: Brisbane 2.15 Draw 3.2 CC 3.5

run to 29 matches. Brisbane Roar captain Matt Smith has shaken off a slight injury concern to confirm his involvement in tomorrow night's Hyundai A-League season opener against Central Coast Mariners at Suncorp Stadium.

The skipper suffered a back spasm during yesterday's training session at Ballymore Stadium but said it would take more than a minor injury to keep him off the sublime Suncorp Stadium surface in tomorrow night's

blockbuster – his first official fixture wearing the captain's armband.

Smith will feature as a key figure in the team as Brisbane look to kick-off their title defence with three points against the familiar opponents.

"I'll definitely play – I wouldn't miss this chance for the world," Smith said.

"I had a bit of an issue yesterday but it's come up a thousand times better today and with the same sort of progress tomorrow, I'll be fine for

tomorrow night.

"I'll be doing everything I can to make sure I'm right for the game".

Despite talk in the build-up for the Grand Final rematch that the Mariners would be out to take revenge following the heart-breaking way they lost last season's decider, Smith reiterated that his side were concentrated on their own preparations and their performance during the 90 minutes.

Head-to-Head: Played 23 - Brisbane Roar 11 wins, Central Coast Mariners 3 wins, 9 draws
Referee: Peter Green AR1: Rod Allen AR1: Hakan Anaz 4th Official: Strebrel Delovski



Line Ups

1. Mathew Ryan
 2. Daniel McBreen
 3. Joshua Rose
 4. Pedj Bojic
 5. Brad Porter
 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk (C)
 8. Rostyn Griffiths
 9. Bernie Ibini-Isei
 10. Adriano Pellegrino
 11. Oliver Bozanic
 12. Troy Hearfield
 14. Michael McGlinchey
 15. Brad McDonald
 16. Trent Sainsbury
 17. Michael Baird
 19. Matthew Simon
 20. Justin Pasfield
 21. Sam Gallagher
 23. Adam Kwasnik
- *four to be omitted*

Unavailable:
7. John HUTCHINSON (On Loan)
13. Stuart MUSIALIK (Adductor – 2 weeks)
18. Alex WILKINSON (Forearm – 1 week)
22. Mustafa AMINI (Groin – 4 weeks)



Line Ups

1. Glen Moss [Gk]
 2. Josh Brillante
 3. Michael Thwaite (C)
 5. Kristian Rees
 6. Paul Beekmans
 7. Golgol Mebrahtu
 8. Robson
 9. Joel Porter
 12. Dylan Macallister
 13. Ante Rozic
 14. Ben Halloran
 15. Adama Traore
 16. Maceo Rigters
 18. James Brown
 20. Jerrad Tyson [Gk]
 21. Daniel Severino
 22. Peter Jungschlager
 23. Dylan McGowan.
- *three to be omitted*

Unavailable:
Chris BROADFOOT (ankle injury – 6 weeks)

Gold Coast Utd v Wellington Phoenix

Sun 9 Oct Skilled Park 5:00pm

This game sees two of the teams that most pundits think will finish in the bottom half of the ladder fight it out in what should give us a truer indication of where these two really sit.

It has been a revolving door of stars leaving the Gold Coast in the off season with Smeltz (Perth), Djite (Adelaide), Culina (Newcastle), Van Den Brink (Perth) and Caravella (Adelaide) all looking for opportunities elsewhere within the A-League. Miron Bleiberg will be hoping that Gold Coast's youth will shine this year, a tactic that was very successful for Ange Postecoglou at the Roar last season.

An area of the park where the Gold Coast does have some experience is up front. A-League journeyman Dylan McAllister will be partnered by ex-Blackburn striker Maceo Rigters. Rigters is an interesting character, who at 27 seemingly has plenty of good football left in him.



An early six pointer up for grabs on the Gold Coast.
Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

TV: Live and exclusive on Fox Sports Radio: The Radio Network (Wellington)
Odds: Gold Coast 1.7 Draw 3.6 WP 5

He has played in the top leagues of Europe, but perhaps his best achievement to date was winning the Golden Boot at the UEFA European under 21 Football Championships. Wellington had a chance to sign Rigters during the off season, but a dispute over how much Rigters would be paid saw the Dutchman pack his bags for Australia. Wellington

has also had a disrupted off season with a change of ownership in the last couple of weeks. Marcos Rojas will be a huge loss for the club, and Rikki Herbert must look to bring in a proven goal scorer with Greenacre and Pavlovic injured and Paul Ifill more suited to life as a winger.

The new signings for the Phoenix certainly aren't as inspiring

as many of the other teams around the league, but Herbert is a top class manager who, as we saw at the World Cup, gets the best out of what he's got. Looking at both squads it looks as if it will be a long season for these two clubs and I think that both managers will happy to get the season underway with a draw.

Prediction
Gold Coast 1-1 Phoenix

Head-to-Head: Played 6 - Gold Coast United 2 wins, Wellington Phoenix 2 wins, 2 draws
Referee: Gerard Parsons AR1: Denis Silk AR1: David Walsh 4th Official: Matt Gillett



Line Ups

1. Mark PASTON
 2. Manny MUSCAT
 3. Tony LOCHHEAD
 4. Brent GRIFFITHS
 6. Tim BROWN
 7. Leo BERTOS
 8. Paul IFILL
 9. Chris GREENACRE
 11. DANIEL
 12. Nicky WARD
 13. Niko TSATTALIOS
 17. Vince LIA
 18. Ben SIGMUND
 19. Jimmy DOWNEY
 20. Tony WARNER
 21. Dani SANCHEZ
 22. Andrew DURANTE
- *two to be omitted*

Unavailable: Lucas Pantelis - ACL rupture (season);
Mirjan Pavlovic - Broken arm (8 to 10 weeks)

The FURNITURE
those rich people
DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE



ADRIATIC FURNITURE
EXCLUSIVE, YES. EXPENSIVE? NO.

www.adriatic.com.au



Line Ups

- 1.Danny VUKOVIC
- 2.Josh MITCHELL
- 3.Bas Van Den BRINK,
- 4.Billy MEHMET
- 6.Chris COYNE
- 7.Jacob BURNS
- 8.Adam HUGHES
- 9.Shane SMELTZ
- 10.Liam MILLER
- 12.Scott NEVILLE
- 13.Travis DODD
- 14.Steven Mcgarry
- 15.Tommy AMPHLETT
- 16.Evan BERGER
- 17.Todd HOWARTH
- 18.Jesse MAKAROUNAS
- 19.Josh RISDON
- 20.Neil YOUNG
- 21.Mile STERJOVSKI
- 22.Adam TAGGART
- 27.ANDREZINHO
- *five to be omitted*

Unavailable:
11.Victor SIKORA (hip – long term injury list)

Perth Glory v Adelaide United

Sun 9 Oct nib Stadium 7:30pm

The seven month wait for A-League football will finally end on Saturday afternoon when the Melbourne Heart travel to Newcastle to take on the Jets.

Whilst most of the media focus has been on the blue half of Melbourne this off season, the Heart has quietly assembled a quality squad that should be highly competitive. Brazilian maestro Fred will take the captains armband, and if he has half as much impact as he did in his first voyage to the A-League, then Heart fans will be in for a real treat. The real test for the Heart will be finding consistency amongst a squad with lacking experience.

Veterans John Aloisi, Josip Skoko and Gerald Sibon have all finished up at the Heart. Whilst other experienced heads, Dean Heffernan and Michael Beauchamp have moved to other clubs within the A-League. Jon van't Schip has opted for players with skill and flair and goals should come from a mix of Ex-Fury striker David Williams, Ex-Victory midfielder Mate Dugandzic, Brazilian recruit Maycon and the diminutive Alex Terra. The



TV: Live and exclusive on Fox Sports Radio: 91.3 SportFM
Odds: Perth 2.45 Draw 3.2 Adelaide 2.9

defence was fairly average last season, and with rumours floating around that Simon Colosimo might be looking elsewhere, Van't Schip may need to look to bolster this area.

The Jets looked to have pulled off one of the biggest coups of the off season when they signed Gold Coast marquee man Jason Culina. Unfortunately for the Newcastle faithful, they will have to wait till next season to see Jason kick a

ball in anger after a knee injury prematurely ended his season. Apart from the signing of Culina, Newcastle has been fairly quiet on the transfer market adding Byun from Sydney and Chris Payne from the now defunct North Queensland Fury.

The Jets showed real glimpses towards the end of last season that they can play some wonderful football, and regaining Kasey Wehrmann from injury this sea-

son should put the team in good stead to push towards a finals berth. I think that first up this will be a cagey affair with both sides not wanting to give away too much early on. A goal either way might nick this in what should be a low scoring match.



Line Ups

- 1.Eugene GALEKOVIC (Gk)
- 2.Osama MALIK
- 4.Jon McKain (C)
- 5.Daniel MULLEN
- 6.CASSIO
- 7.Zenon CARAVELLA
- 8.Evgeniy LEVCHENKO
- 9.Sergio VAN DIJK
- 10.Dario VIDOSIC
- 11.Bruce DJITE
- 12.Antony GOLEC
- 13.Ricardo DA SILVA
- 14.Cameron WATSON
- 16.Spase DILEVSKI
- 17.Iain RAMSAY
- 20.Mark BIRIGHITTI (Gk)
- 21.Francisco USUCAR
- 22.Milan SUSAK
- 23.Andy SLORY
- *four to be omitted*

Unavailable:
Nigel BOOGAARD (ankle – 4 weeks)

Head-to-Head: Played 21 - Perth Glory 5 wins, Adelaide United 10 wins, 3 draws
Did you know? The next goal scored by Perth Glory's new recruit Shane Smeltz will be his 50th in the Hyundai A-League.

SUSAK HAPPY TO BE BACK IN ADELAIDE

Adelaide United FC's latest signing Milan Susak admits he did not think twice when approached about rejoining the Reds on a two year deal.

The 27 year old defender, who was part of United's 2007/08 squad, touched down in Adelaide eager to start training and build up to the Hyundai A-League 2011/12 Season with his new team mates.

The circumstances surrounding Susak's arrival to the Reds less than a fortnight out from the start of the season came about when Minangkabau FC, the Indonesian club he went to after becoming a championship winner with Brisbane Roar back in March, did not receive a licence in the newly formed Indonesian league.

"I played eight or nine games over there (in Indonesia) and then we had a break because they've got a transition in the league over there with the merger happening and unfortunately my club didn't get the licence to merge and they couldn't afford to keep me and pay me for the second year as well," Susak said.

"So I came on a free transfer and when I heard Adelaide was interested in me I didn't hesitate.

Obviously I was here in 2007/08 and had a great time and I'm just happy to be back."

"When I played here in 2007/08 the club was very good, it's like a family club and they make you feel comfortable here. When I left in 2008 I was shattered, and then when I got the chance and they contacted me to look at coming back, I was very happy."

Susak may be the Reds' last new signing ahead of season seven, but his 14 appearances in all competitions for the club, which included games in the 2008 AFC Champions League, means he is no stranger to Adelaide United fans.

Since the time his contract with United came to an end, Susak has had two seasons in Germany and the record breaking year with the Roar. Susak experienced Brisbane's extraordinary ride of 32 games unbeaten on their way to being crowned Hyundai A-League premiers and champions, and with the emotion and thrill of the Roar's success still well and truly entrenched in his mind, he wants more of the same with the Reds.

"The feeling of that season, the streak, the semi finals and the grand final and how it all happened,

it's every player's dream so I'm hungry to get that feeling again here," Susak said.

In a senior career that is about to head into its tenth year, Susak will add even more experience and versatility to a Reds defence that already comprises of seasoned campaigners Jon McKain, Nigel Boogaard and Cassio.

"I see his best position as a central defender but one of the benefits is that he can play if necessary in more positions in the back four, so that's definitely something positive," Head Coach Rini Coolen said.

"All of the people I spoke to about his football quality, but also about him as a person was very positive so that made things for me much easier to go through the final details with him and we're very happy to have him in our squad."

"What he needs is of course is game fitness, he's been training over the past couple of months so he needs some time but we'll try to fit him in as quickly as possible."

Determined to get up to speed as quickly as possible, Susak went straight to an individual training session during the week and was set to join the squad for the first time shortly.



Milan Susak in action for Brisbane Roar during last season's Grand Final. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

PhotoAccess presents in the
HUW DAVIES GALLERY

PAUL LAU
CONQUERING MATILDAS

Story of the 2010 Women's Asian Cup

27 October - 13 November 2011
HUW DAVIES GALLERY is located at Manuka Arts Centre
Manuka Circle Griffith ACT
Canberra Australia
www.photoaccess.org.au



Shooting for the stars with Galaxy

The excitement is beginning to amass for the glamour friendly between Melbourne Victory and David Beckham's LA Galaxy on December 6. In what is set to be a pulsating encounter the centrepiece will showcase some of the best talent to surface in both the MLS (Major League Soccer) and the A-League. Goal! Weekly's ROBERT DI FABIO interviews the visiting LA Galaxy president Tom Payne to discuss football stateside.

In Melbourne, on a 24-hour pit-stop was LA Galaxy President, Tom Payne, was here to perform media commitments for the blockbuster showpiece, whilst inspecting the city of Melbourne.

A successful businessman, Payne has an extensive background in the sports and entertainment industry. He has worked with the LA Galaxy since 2003, performing an array of different tasks, including – assistant General Manager, Vice President of Programming and Business Development and currently President of Business Operation.

The American is eagerly anticipating the forthcoming friendly, where the LA outfit will be making their third trip down under in three years.

Whilst discussing the tie between Victory and Galaxy, Payne also expressed his sentiments on the landscape of the MLS, competitive competition in the US and its parallels with the A-League, LA life post David Beckham and his influence on the game in the US, community exposure and why he believes Melbourne is the sporting capital of Australia.

Welcome to Australia Tom. Not sure if you're aware, Melbourne was recently voted by the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Survey as the most liveable city in the world, surpassing Sydney in sixth position. What are your first impressions of Melbourne?

It seems beautiful; I haven't spent a ton of time here. The airport wasn't easy today, something was going on I guess, it took me a while to get out, but the city looks great. The hotel we're at is lovely; we're looking forward to it. We've heard great things all through the year. I even had a talk with one of our star player's Landon Donovan last week about this trip and he can't wait to come back to Melbourne, he's been here before. It's going to be the end of our tour, the last game. So it's an opportunity for all of us to visit the city and see the sites and have a really good time here, we're looking forward to it.

It won't be the first time LA Galaxy has ventured down under, playing Sydney FC in an enthralling encounter in 2008, whilst recently playing Newcastle Jets last year. What is it about Australia that encourages the Galaxy to promote your brand?

I think there are parallels, I've been asked that a lot, between the A-League and MLS. We've been going now for about 15-16 years; we were in very similar points a while back. We're hoping that we can expand the sport and bring some new variety towards it. Certainly anywhere David [Beckham] goes it brings the spotlight on the sport and the game. The game in Newcastle last year, they're a smaller town, we have a lot bigger towns in the US, but it was compelling – the game and the atmosphere and the environment – and we're looking to do the same thing here [in Melbourne], we want to sell the game out and have a great time. We have some great players [on show] like Harry Kewell, Landon Donovan, Robbie Keane and David [Beckham] who will make it a great spectacle for the fans. We think it's a natural thing to come back here because everyone has treated us so well every time we've been here before.



La Galaxy President Tom Payne shares a lighter moment with Melbourne Victory coach Mehmet Durakovic at Etihad Stadium last week. PHOTO: DARRYL KENNEDY

Since the inauguration of David Beckham in July 2007, LA Galaxy has become one of the more prominent football clubs worldwide in terms of marketability and promotion. How has the transformation changed in the last four years?

It has changed in every way, not only for us [LA Galaxy] but for the league. He's meant a lot for the league, as far as expansion and the national TV rights deal. In our country we have ESPN doing our games every week, that's a big deal and we have that now. David has a lot to do with that.

For us, it's the same thing, when players want to come to the US to play, or think about it, generally it's the Galaxy they talk to first, because they know of the Galaxy because of David Beckham and the brand we've been able to build around that by travelling to places like Australia, by going to Asia and all those things. LA is also pretty well known for the beach and everything else around the world, so think that's all part of it.

Has the club planned for life after David Beckham? Should we anticipate another signing reminiscent of Beckham's calibre in the not too distant future?

[Laughs] Well if you think about it, I think our company is willing to do those things; we're the ones that built the finest stadium (The Home Depot Centre) in the country when nobody was doing it. We brought in Beckham, we brought in Robbie Keane, we brought Landon Donovan back, the best American player, we brought him back into the league before we signed David. So I think yes [we can bring in another big name player], I mean who's the next David Beckham? I don't know if there is one, it transcend the sport with a guy like David Beckham, there's very few people like that. So, we always look at everything that comes down our pipe. We have rules in our league, so we can't just sign any player we want, there are financial ramifications that we have to consider, so we'll look at things.

The popularity of the MLS has cultivated immensely since its inception in 1996, initially starting with 10 clubs, and ultimately expanding

to an 18-team competition. What do you put this down to and where do you foresee the MLS in 5-10 years?

Well I think David helped, the expansion really took off with the new variety David brought to the league and certainly to so many people watching on national television and all those things. I think as far as expansion, we want to be a little bit careful, obviously we want to get it to 20 [teams], because 19 is an odd number to have. Then I think we should sort of take our time, there are a lot of cities interested in us [MLS], but I was mentioning this earlier, one thing that is important is that teams play in soccer specific stadiums. We're not trying to put 20,000 people in a 60,000 seat stadium because that's a bad perception, doesn't look good on TV; it's a bad environment for the fans that are here. It's just not what you want. If you want to come into our league as an expansion [team] such as Vancouver Whitecaps (2011), Portland Timbers (2011), and Philadelphia Union last year, you have to have your own soccer specific stadium or build one. Now you're not just paying to have a team in the league. Our expansion fees are probably 40 or 50 million dollars now, I'm not sure that's a league issue. But then you have to commit to having a soccer specific stadium. Now you're talking, maybe a 200 million. The one thing about that is our ownership group is as strong as any other ownership group in America, so that's a great thing.

Particularly in markets like the US and Australia, engagement with the grassroots and communities are imperative to translate support for the relative MLS clubs. What programs have LA Galaxy implemented in this regard and how has it affected the club's image with fans?

LA does everything. I just did a presentation the other day at a university. We take our role in our community very seriously. Two of our departments that we report to are our community development and foundations, where we go to hospitals, we read to kids at the local communities. Our stadium is built in an area, it's not where at risk

kids are, but it's bordering on that. So we do a lot of things, we do camps for kids once a month, we go out into communities for kids that wouldn't be able to afford to go to a camp or we might put on a camp and pay for it, so we take that very seriously. From a marketing standpoint, we are always doing the grassroots thing, we had 400 visits from our street team this year who went to 500 different events, promoting the Galaxy, giving away merchandise, just promoting the sport at a grassroots level and promoting the Galaxy at a grassroots level. They all go together, but we take our role in the community very seriously.

In many ways, the MLS and A-League have similar working environments. Both battles to gain publicity against the more eminent codes – the NFL, MLB and NBA in the US, while the AFL and NRL are the major competitors in Australia. How has the MLS confronted this issue of cross-code conflict?

I think there's room for everybody, in the US at least, we're a big country. In LA we have over 20 million people living in the general LA area. So there's no reason you can't have an 18,000 seat basketball game and a 23,000 seat soccer match. When I came in, the thing I made sure my employees understood was that we are going to compete with the baseball teams, the Dodgers and the Angels and those types of folks. We're going to be major league, we're not going to stoop and act like it's a high school soccer game, we just built a 200 million dollar venue. We're going to put on a presentation that is going to be as good as any sports event in our city, and that's what we do every single week. The key part of our initiative is to make sure people come to our games, because half the people that come to our game aren't season ticket holders. I've got to make sure that they're having an unbelievable event and an unbelievable night out with their family, without having issues with parking, and whatever it is, but we make sure that's a really key part of what we do.

We're not going to be able to compete with the NFL for a long time, we feel like we're making ground on

hockey (NHL) and things like that, but we're still a long way behind basketball and baseball and the NFL. But we are going to continue to work at it, you can see through the expansion, our average attendances are up 10 percent this year. Most sports in our market and most sports in the country, with the economy the way it is have gone down about 5-10 percent, we've (MLS) went up about 10 percent. As long as kids are still playing and we're putting a great product on the field and treat people the right way, we'll be fine.

To date Melbourne Victory has been the most successful club on and off the pitch in the A-League. The club has the biggest supporter base and continues to thrive on the pitch. What do you know on a personal level about Melbourne Victory and why did LA Galaxy decide to play the two-time champions of Australia?

The promoter we work with on all these games is based in Melbourne, he's singing the praises of Melbourne all this time, and it just took him in this case stepping up and wanting to do an event like this. We've always had our eye on trying to come to this market; it stands out with Sydney right, when talking about Australia. We had a great event in Newcastle last year and a great event in Sydney [in 2008]. Every time I come into the country, people still bring that game up that they were there; all the media I've talked to today were there. We want to do the same here in Melbourne, at the end of the day we know that the Melbourne Victory are sort of the team by which the rest of the league is judged. We feel the same way about our club in our country, we feel like the Galaxy is the most famous club and Victory is the most famous club here. So, it makes sense that we would play each other in a friendly and put on a great show for the fans.

Comparable to the lure of Beckham from an Australia perspective, Melbourne Victory recently secured the services of Harry Kewell – arguably the most talented player to ever wear the Socceroos' jersey. Are you excited about the pros-

pect of Kewell and Beckham going head-to-head?

Yes, I mean soccer is not a one on one game, but David actually plays in the middle of the pitch now, I don't know where Harry will play. For me it's just about the better players on the field, the better it will be for the fans, the better the event will be. We also have Landon Donovan, in my opinion is the best American player even. He leads the US in goals and assists all-time, and he's still the player that's always counted on in the special moments like in the World Cup last year. So I don't want to forget about those guys. Robbie Keane, Marcos Gonzalez – our centre back, who's on the US national team, he's 22 or 23 years old and his an up and coming star player, who we're going to have a hard time of keeping because we're going to get offers at some point for him all over the world – I'm sure Melbourne Victory has similar players, so at the end of the day, it's all about putting on a great event, making it competitive, having fun with it and the more good players that play, the better the event will be.

Landon Donovan, David Beckham and Robbie Keane are all set to face Melbourne Victory on December 6 at Etihad Stadium. What message can you give to fans wanting to see some of the best talent to surface the MLS?

I hope everyone that cares at all about the sport is there or just wants to come to a big sporting event, I keep hearing that Melbourne is the sporting capital of Australia, I've heard that since the first time I came, so I hope everyone will come out and prove it. We'll have an electric atmosphere in here. They want to see great soccer and a great event with huge players playing in it, like Harry Kewell, David Beckham, Landon Donovan and Robbie Keane. This is going to be the place to be on December 6. We're looking forward to it, we'll have our whole team with us, Melbourne will as well I'm sure, so it should be a fun night.

Thank you for your time Tom and best of luck on your future endeavours with LA Galaxy and the season ahead.

Follow Robert on Twitter @Robert-DiFabio

MORE THAN 10,000 RUSH TO SEE BECKHAM

In just 48 hours, over 10,000 excited fans secured their chance to be a part of sporting history by snapping up tickets to the upcoming LA Galaxy versus Melbourne Victory football match on December 6.

Cementing Melbourne's reputation as the sporting capital of Australia, Etihad Stadium is set to come alive with one of the world's most recognised sportsmen, David Beckham. He will share the stage with international stars; Harry Kewell, Robbie Keane and Landon Donovan.

For those wishing to enjoy all the event has to offer, Melbourne Victory will be hosting a Chairman's dinner on December 6 and dining packages will be made available at the conclusion of the week.

Chairman's Dinner Enquiries Melbourne Victory FC (03) 8803 0206

Couch Potato Dept.



Sunday 09th October
08:00 am Magic Of The FA Cup Newcastle
United's Greatest Games

Tuesday 11th October
03:05 am Arsenal TV Champions League:
Arsenal Classic Match

Wednesday 12th October
02:30 am Liverpool TV - International Week
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Manchester
United V Liverpool 4th Round 98/99

Thursday 13th October
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Barnsley V
Chelsea 6th Round 07/08

Friday 14th October
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Tranmere Rovers
V Southampton 5th Round Replay 00/01

Saturday 15th October
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Chelsea V
Manchester United Final 06/07



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
ALL GAMES LIVE

Week 9
October 8-11.
No matches scheduled due to international
fixtures.

Week 10
Sat Oct 15 Liverpool v Manchester United
10.38 pm
Sun Oct 16 Man City v Aston Villa 12.53 am
Sun Oct 16 Norwich v Swansea
12.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Oct 16 QPR v Blackburn
12.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Oct 16 Stoke v Fulham
12.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Oct 16 Wigan v Bolton
12.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Oct 16 Chelsea v Everton 3.23 am
Sun Oct 16 West Brom v Wolves 9.53 pm
Sun Oct 16 Arsenal v Sunderland
11.23 pm Viewers Choice
Mon Oct 17 Newcastle v Tottenham 1.53 am

THE CHAMPIONSHIP
Sat Oct 15 Doncaster v Leeds 5.30 am
Sun Oct 16 Portsmouth v Barnsley
5.30 am DELAY
Sun Oct 16 Birmingham v Leicester
10.56 pm Viewers Choice

INTERNATIONAL MATCH
Tue Oct 11 WCQ: Australia v Oman 6.30 pm

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE
Sat Oct 8 Newcastle v Heart 4.00 pm
Sat Oct 8 Melbourne v Sydney 6.30 pm
Sat Oct 8 Brisbane v Central Coast 8.30 pm
Sun Oct 9 Gold Coast v Wellington 4.30 pm
Sun Oct 9 Perth v Adelaide 7.00 pm

The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time
Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am



Saturday 8-Oct
Euro 2012 Qualifier Group F Greece v
Croatia 5:40am LIVE
Euro 2012 Qualifier Group C Serbia v
Italy 7:45am 1st Airing
Euro 2012 Qualifier Group B Andorra v
Republic of Ireland 9:30am 1st Airing

Sunday 9-Oct
Euro 2012 Qualifier Group I Liechtenstein
v Scotland 4:25am LIVE

Wednesday 12-Oct
Euro 2012 Qualifier Group F Teams TBC
3:55am LIVE
Euro 2012 Qualifier Group I Spain v
Scotland 5:45am LIVE
Euro 2012 Qualifier Group TBC Teams
TBC 8:00am 1st Airing

Thursday 13-Oct
Copa Sudamericana Round of 16 2nd
Leg Independiente v LDU Quito 11:15am
LIVE

The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm on C31 and C44Digital



WAG OF THE WEEK



Zaira Nara Age: 23
Scored with Diego Forlan (Inter Milan)

ECU Joondalup qualify to play at Volkswagen Junior World Masters

U-12 club teams travelled to Sydney from Perth, Darwin, Cairns, Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne and regional NSW to play in the inaugural Volkswagen Junior Masters Australia football tournament last weekend.

The event proved to be a celebration of football, camaraderie, friendship and great sportsmanship as Marc Johnston from Mindil Aces in Darwin commented: "The Junior Masters Australia tournament has given

our kids up here in the territory lifelong memories and friendships that will be cherished."

Following two days of competitive and entertaining football from all 20 participating teams ECU Joondalup from Perth emerged as champions following an enthralling final against Adelaide City with the game going to a penalty shootout after extra time.

As champions the Perth team has won a trip for the

squad to represent Australia at the Volkswagen Junior World Masters international tournament next year. ECU Joondalup will be in the draw to play against the winners of 20 other national Junior Masters tournament champions from around the world.

The team's excellent brand of pass and move football and great personality on and off the field mean that they will be the perfect ambassadors for our country and football in Poland in 2012.



WA's ECU Joondalup hoist aloft the Junior Masters trophy.



Brunswick City (blue) against Qld's Johnston River



Victoria's Pascoe Vale (white) in action against NSW's Leichardt Juniors.

SAXON SPORTS FRANKSTON

THE 2011 RIVIERA HOTEL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE COMP - \$3000 PRIZE MONEY

5-A-SIDE SOCCER

32 TEAMS - STARTS WED 19TH OCTOBER

Tel 9783 6066 or see website for full details www.saxonsportsfrankston.com 4/4 New Street, Frankston (Behind Burson Auto Parts)

Mens & Ladies
Mixed & Juniors

Watch a replay
of your favourite
game in the bar at
full time!

PERTH SC IN SEVENTH HEAVEN



Peter Simcox

Perth Soccer Club have made it a hat-trick of State League Grand Final wins after a thrashing Sorrento 7-0 in Sunday's All Flags Grand Final at Frank Drago Reserve.

Goals from David Onoforo and Andreas Oliveira gave Perth the lead at half time, but five more after the break, from Robbie Sciascia, Onoforo, Oliveira, Josh Wilkins and Adam Bachiller gave Gianfranco Circati's side the crown of Champions of WA football for 2011.

Skipper Onoforo was delighted with the victory. "I can't say enough about the players who played today and all that have given everything all season for our football club," said Onoforo.

"We were great today and to win the Grand Final for a third time is very special, and we're going to enjoy it tonight."

The Gull's came into the game in good form after beating Balcatta 3-0 last week, and went in unchanged from that side. Perth on the other hand made two changes to their starting line up with Oliveira returning from injury, while Robbie Sciascia replaced Josh Wilkins, who dropped to the bench.

It was Perth who was out of the blocks early and went close after only three minutes. Greg Sharland's pass picked out Onoforo, and his shot on the turn was deflected inches wide of the far post.

But on 12 minutes they did break the

deadlock. Again it was Sharland who was the supplier, his quickly taken free kick caught Sorrento napping and Onoforo nipped in and fired low past Curtis Aspden from six-yards.

Sorrento looked to hit back immediately and two minutes later Shaun Timmins' cross from the left found Joe Allanson at the back post, but the striker's header flashed inches over the bar.

The Gulls continued to take the game to Perth and on 21 minutes Ryan Pearson's long ball over the top caught the Perth backline out and Todd Harnwell was in on goal, but keeper Jason Saldaris denied the Sorrento skipper with a smart save.

Then against the run of play Perth doubled their lead. Again it was Sharland who began the move, sending Trent Kay racing down the left. His cross into the penalty area found the unmarked Oliveira, who fired home from 8-yards.

It became heated on the pitch when a clash between Matt Danskin and Allanson saw a melee involving both sets of players, which referee Mathew Cheeseman soon sorted out and booked the Perth defender.

Both sides had late chances as the game opened up. First on 39 minutes Sorrento defender Pearson's cross-shot beat Saldaris but the ball crashed off the crossbar. The rebound fell to Timmins who crossed the ball back into the penalty area and Todd Harnwell saw his header go only inches over the top. On the stroke of half time Josh Pereira sent Onoforo clear down the right. His cross found Oliveira whose first time shot was straight at Aspden who saved.

Sorrento opened the second half well and seven minutes in Danny Cain's free kick was headed back across goal by Jamie Harnwell, but Timmins' shot from



Perth SC make it three WA titles on the trot after smashing Sorrento 7-0. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

18-yards was blocked by Shaun Kilkelly and cleared.

Moments later they went even closer. Again it was Cain who made space down the left and crossed to Todd Harnwell, whose shot through a crowded penalty area was superbly saved by Saldaris.

That save was vital for Perth as three minutes later they made it 3-0. Sharland raced clear down the left, and his pinpoint cross found the unmarked Sciascia at the back post, and he fired home from 8-yards.

It became 4-0 two minutes later. Sharland again was found down the left and

this time he picked out Oliveira at the back post, and he fired home.

Sorrento pushed men forward looking to get back into the game and they were caught out again on 70 minutes. Onoforo was sent clear down the left by Danskin, and his cross picked out the unmarked Wilkins, who had only been on the pitch for sixty seconds, and he fired home

Perth was dominating and went close again on 82 minutes. Oliveira sent Wilkins clear in on goal his shot was well saved by Aspden, the rebound falling to Onoforo, whose shot was cleared off the

line by Jared Love.

It was 6-0 two minutes later. Onoforo picking out Adam Bachiller, and he finished clinically from the left of the penalty area.

Perth made it 7-0 in the 89th minute. Oliveira was sent clear by Dom De Felice and his shot was blocked by Aspden, but the rebound fell to Onoforo who fired home into an empty net, to round off a comprehensive victory for the Dorrien Gardens club. Perth midfielder Greg Sharland was awarded the 'Gary Marocchi Medal' as best a field in the game.

Perth coach Gianfranco Circati was

WA GRAND FINAL

All Flags State League Grand Final
Sunday 2nd October 2011
Perth SC 7 (Onoforo 12', 89', Oliveira 23', 58', Sciascia 56', Wilkins 71', Bachiller 84')
Sorrento 0
Venue Frank Drago Reserve
Attendance – 1,500
Referee – Mathew Cheeseman
Assistants – Josh Mihevc, Ross Sardi

Sorrento: GK Curtis ASPDEN, 2 Danny CAIN, 6 Darryl PLATTEN, 8 Brodie MARTIN, 9 Todd HARNWELL, 11 Joe ALLANSON (23 Dejan GUROVSKI 57'), 13 Jamie HARNWELL, 17 Shaun TIMMINS (7 Jared LOVE 62') 18 David PRICE (10 Jason MIRCO 85'), 19 Adam LUCA, 22 Ryan PEARSON
Substitutes not used: RGK Todd Ross, 24 David FOSTER
Yellow Cards – Jamie Harnwell 78'

Perth SC: GK Jason SALDARIS, 2 Trent KAY, 4 Craig SIMPSON, 6 Shaun KILKELLY, 7 Matt DANSKIN, 9 David ONOFORO, 10 Andreas OLIVEIRA, 14 Josh PEREIRA (8 Dom DE FELICE 62'), 15 Antonio NAGLIERI, 11 Robbie SCIASCIA (21 Josh WILKINS 70'), 23 Greg SHARLAND (3 Adam BACHILLER 72')
Substitutes not used: RGK Devon SPENCE, 5 Daniel COLETTA
Yellow Cards – Danskin 30', Simpson 45 +1', Kilkelly 54', Pereira 57'

happy with the performance and to make it a hat-trick of Grand Final wins. "It was a big win. Any final I don't think should finish 7-0 and obviously everything went right for us and something went wrong for them. But this is the beauty of the final," said Circati.

"Obviously we were a little bit worried after the final of the Cup and we didn't want to lose this game, but I think we were ready for this. We had a little bit of luck but we played very well. I don't think it was the best Sorrento today but it was definitely the best Perth of the season."



Mike Salter

Before an expectant crowd of 10,138, the NSW Premier League's two top sides produced a dull, disappointing final at Belmore Sportsground. Two straightforward set-piece goals carried the day for Sydney Olympic, who thus crowned their Premiership season with a victory in the season's showpiece match.

In only the second minute, Alex Smith provided a stunning start to proceedings after a right-wing corner was cleared to him; finding space on the edge of the box, he let fly with a thunderous volley that Vedran Janjetovic could only palm into the corner of the United net.

Three minutes later, United attempted to respond. Mitchell Thompson tried to relive his heroics of the previous week, taking advantage of a neat pass from Steve Hayes to send a fulminating left-footed shot at goal, which Paul Henderson managed to push aside. From the resulting corner, Henderson was called into action again, making a smart save from Mark Rudan's header.

A snap-shot from Luka Glavas on the left brought Henderson into action again on 12 minutes, as United gradually began to settle. The game then entered a period of trench warfare, with neither side managing to create many clear chances, and the aerial battles in midfield interrupting the flow of the football. The game remained bogged down in this fashion until half-time, with Olympic never looking in serious danger of surrendering their 1-0 lead.

Six minutes after the restart, the Premiers doubled their lead with a disarmingly simple goal. A left-wing corner from Chris Triantis evaded the entire crowd in the United area, and Richard Luksic at the far post was left with the simplest of tasks, nodding the ball in from point-blank range.

The game continued on its dreary way, with neither team able to put together a sustained period of possession. The influence of Chris Triantis on the Olympic right

OLYMPIC TRIUMPH IN UNINSPIRING FINAL



O-LYM-PIC! O-LYM-PIC! Sydney Olympic are NSW champs after their 2-0 win over Sydney United. Photo: DAMIEN BRIGGS/ FNSW

waned with the arrival of young Tomislav Mijic at left-back for United, but this was not enough to change the complexion of the contest.

United brought on the speedy Elsid Barkhousir in an attempt to spark the front-line into life, but the stop-start nature of the game continued. When Barkhousir finally found himself on the end of a left-wing move on 74 minutes, he made a dreadful hash of an enticing volley from twelve yards, missing the goal completely.

That was as good as it got for United, as a final which had promised so much finished in insipid fashion. Sydney Olympic, for so long the nearly men of NSW football, deservedly finished the season as Premiers and Champions.

In the Under 20 final, APIA-Leichhardt overcame Blacktown City 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

MIKE'S NSWPL SEASON REVIEW

Team of the Season: Sydney Olympic. It's hard to go past a team that finished as both Premiers and Champions, and the resilience of a squad that suffered some major upheavals in the lead-up to the finals gave the lie to those who assumed that the Premier League's serial underachievers would choke once more. The long-running saga of star striker Alex Smith's possible departure, the arrival and abrupt departure of set-piece maestro Daniel Severino, the painful loss of club stalwart Anthony Doumanis, all of these were ultimately taken in their stride by Peter Tsekenis's determined troops.

Surprise of the Season: Blacktown City. Almost all of the Premier League pundits assumed that the defending champions would be in for a wretched season fol-

lowing the departure of the competition's most prolific striker, Tolgay Ozbey, and talismanic coach Aytek Genc. Mark Crittenden's young squad did indeed endure a difficult start to the season, but a storming run saw them force their way into the final five, and even come within a game of a Grand Final berth. Youngsters such as Ray Miller, Travis Major and Matt Lewis enhanced their reputations markedly, and bustling striker Luke Roodenburg proved that he is far from a spent force yet.

Disappointment of the Season: Bonnyrigg White Eagles. Fans of the Serbian-backed club had every reason to expect a repeat of last season, in which the Brian Brown-coached side claimed the Premiership and narrowly lost out in the showpiece to Blacktown. But despite the array of talent on show, it was not to

be; stumbling unconvincingly into the top five, the "Chelsea of the NSWPL" fell at the first knockout hurdle. Two key players in Brad Boardman and Jamie McMaster have moved on, and the club now faces uncertain times.

Player of the Season: Steven Hayes (Sydney United). Long considered a journeyman in training, Sydney United's blond midfield dynamo made huge strides this season, and it was no surprise to see several A-League clubs courting him prior to the start of their 2011/12 campaigns. With the presence of experienced anchorman Ufuk Talay allowing him to get forward more often than in previous seasons, Hayes was United's shining light in 2011.

Discovery of the Season: Tomislav Mijic (Sydney United). The Edensor Park as-

NSW GRAND FINAL

Sydney Olympic 2 (Alex Smith 2', Richard Luksic 52')
Sydney United 0

Monday 3rd October, 2011
Belmore Sports Ground, Belmore
Referee: Alex Glasgow
Assistant Referees: Lance Greenshields and Adam Coombes
Fourth Official: Kurt Ams

Sydney Olympic: 1.Paul Henderson; 2.Emmanuel Giannaros, 3.Brett Studman, 4.Ibrahim Haydar, 5.Richard Luksic (C), 6.Alex Smith (9.Hussein Akil 80'), 7.Phil Makrys, 8.Chris Triantis, 11.Robbie Mileski (22.Zac Elrich 90'), 16.Peter Triantis, 19.David Gullo (14.Will Angel 65')

Substitutes Not Used: 18.Jerry Kalouris, 20.Sam Emmanouil

Yellow Cards: Peter Triantis 54', Phil Makrys 58', Will Angel 89'
Red Cards: Nil

Sydney United: 1.Vedran Janjetovic; 3.Mitchell Spear, 4.Michael Cindric, 8.Shane Lyons (38.Tomislav Mijic 46'), 10.Steve Hayes, 11.Luka Glavas, 13.Ben Vidaic (18. Daniel Rezo 87'), 15.Ufuk Talay, 19.Mitchell Thompson (9.Elsid Barkhousir 62'), 21.Mark Rudan, 23.Ivo Bosnar (C)

Substitutes Not Used: 14.Petar Markovic, 20.Ryan Norval,
Yellow Cards: Nil
Red Cards: Nil

sembly line continues to produce players of great promise. Last season it was Melbourne Heart-bound Ante Tomic, and this term it was a young left-back who impressed greatly when given the chance. The son of a former Yugoslavia international, Mijic provided United's fans with one of the few bright notes in their disappointing performance in the Grand Final, nullifying the dangerous Chris Triantis with the poise of a veteran.

Goal of the Season: Umut Tokdogan (Marconi Stallions). Marconi's extraordinary 5-1 away win against the champions-to-be was not only one of the shocks of the season: it also produced an amazing 40-yard free kick from Marconi's young utility, which swerved improbably past Olympic's experienced gloveman Paul Henderson.

Jamie, Jamie, Jamie, Oi! Oi! Oi!



MACKENZIE AT LARGE

With Craig MacKenzie

AUSTRALIA has beaten Scotland in a protracted battle for the services of Blackburn Rovers starlet Jamie Maclaren.

The 18-year-old Sunbury sensation has notified Football Federation Australia of his acceptance of an invite to join the Young Socceroos squad for an Under-19 Asian Football Confederation Group G qualifying tournament in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur later this month.

Group G features Australia, China, Indonesia, Singapore and Macau and is the only group in the Under-19 AFC qualifying series to be conducted at a neutral venue.

These qualifiers will decide whether the Young Socceroos reach the AFC finals next year. Those finals double as qualification for the Under-20 World Cup to be held in Turkey in 2013.

The international battle for Maclaren can be traced back to September 2009 when the former Green Gully and VIS youngster trialled successfully with Blackburn.

'I'm obviously Australian and would love to play for Australia but since I've been at Blackburn no-one from Australia has contacted me.'

— JAMIE MACLAREN, May 2010.

However, an acrimonious stand-off took place with Football Federation Australia holding off on signing his international clearance.

FIFA was dragged into the affair, which took some months to resolve, but when it did Maclaren's goal spree in Rovers' academy side alerted both Scotland and England.

Maclaren qualifies for Scotland through his father Don, an ex-Hearts and Dunfermline Athletic player, and also qualifies for Malta through his mother.

The Scottish FA contacted Rovers last year while England's under-17s head coach, John Peacock, ended his interest abruptly when told that Maclaren had a Scottish background.

But the youngster has never hidden

his preference to play for his country of birth. When interviewed by GW last year he made it clear that any approach from FFA would be looked upon favourably.

"I'm obviously Australian and would love to play for Australia but since I've been at Blackburn no-one from Australia has contacted me," he said at the time.

That changed earlier this year when FFA's UK scout, ex-North Queensland Fury assistant coach Stuart McLaren, went to Blackburn and spoke to the teenager.

FFA's man even travelled to Cobham in Surrey to watch the youngster in action in a reserves fixture against Chelsea.

However, Jamie Maclaren's sudden appearance on the FFA radar was not enough to gain an invite to a national team training camp and he had to watch from afar as the Young Socceroos were bundled out of the Under-20 World Cup in Colombia in early August.

While this was happening the Scots were becoming increasingly confident that Maclaren would declare his allegiance to them.

They had continued their pursuit by inviting him to an under-19 training camp at SportsScotland's national centre at Largs in March this year.

Billy Stark, manager of Scotland's under-19s, was impressed with the teenager and selected him in an under-19 squad to play two challenge matches against the Danes in Denmark in May.

Maclaren started the first game and came on as a sub in the second match as Stark rotated his squad in order to give everyone a start. But all was not lost from an Australian perspective.

Shortly after the Colombia wipeout, national technical director Han Berger and Young Socceroos head coach Jan Versleijen contacted Maclaren and invited him to join an Australian under-20 squad to play in the SBS Cup in Shizuoka, Japan, from 18 to 21 August.

Maclaren declined due to club commitments for by now he was getting game time in both Blackburn's reserves and the academy side. And an important date for the Scots loomed large on his horizon.

Maclaren was expected to be named in the 18-man Scotland squad that



Blackburn Rovers starlet Jamie Maclaren has chosen to play for Australia.

went to Slovenia late last month to play against Belgium, Wales and the host nation in Group 8 of the 2011/12 UEFA under-19 qualifying tournament.

But he was surprisingly overlooked for that squad and when the invite arrived to join the Young Socceroos in Malaysia he jumped at the chance.

"As an Australian it's been disappointing to see the recent results achieved by the Aussies in the under-17 and under-20 World Cups," said Maclaren. "But when I look at the talent available for this upcoming campaign in former teammates Jake Barker-Daish and Curtis Good and also former opponents 'Musti' Amini, Terry Antonis and Corey Gamiero then I think we can reverse this trend and I'd like nothing better than to be a part of that.

"Playing for Scotland was an unbelievable experience, however, unlike my father I don't have tartan blood.

"I'm an Aussie through 'n' through and Blackburn have been supportive given that this is a World Cup campaign and this allows me to compete at an elite level for my country."

No doubt Maclaren's decision will come as a relief for some at FFA headquarters where there must have been a strong feeling that he was slipping out of Australia's grasp when he

donned a Scotland strip back in May.

However, while Maclaren's decision brought a smile to the faces of Berger and Versleijen their mood soon changed with news that Celtic under-19 captain Jackson Irvine had shunned their overtures for the second time in as many months.

'Playing for Scotland was an unbelievable experience, however, unlike my father I don't have tartan blood. I'm an Aussie through 'n' through ...'

— JAMIE MACLAREN, October 2011.

Like Maclaren, Irvine missed out on an invite to national team training camps for most of this year and received his first Young Socceroo invite for the SBS Cup in August.

The former Frankston Pines star declined citing club commitments, both domestic and European, as Celtic is defending last season's league championship and Scottish Youth

Cup triumph while also competing in the NextGen tournament run along Champions' League lines.

But while Maclaren missed out on Scotland's under-19 Slovenia sojourn in September not so Irvine, in fact FFA was trying to contact him regarding his availability for the upcoming AFC qualifiers in Kuala Lumpur while he was still in Slovenia.

When contact finally was made Irvine again politely declined citing league and cup commitments, no doubt much to the chagrin of Berger and Versleijen.

Let's hope that Irvine hasn't burnt his bridges with FFA. My understanding is that if Berger and Versleijen continue the chase they may eventually get their man.

And if they do they will have done Australian football an enormous favour.

A charmed life indeed
I CAN'T let this week's offering pass without mention of my former colleague, photographer, journalist, author, publisher and football administrator Les Shorrock who died on Wednesday 28 September aged 90.

You can add entrepreneur, one-time SP bookie and raconteur extraordinaire to that list and it still would not

be comprehensive.

His nickname at The Age was "Roundball", a deliberately mocking term first used at a time when football was soccer to us and wogball to many.

In time, however, Shorrock cleansed his nickname of malice by the quality of his work as a photojournalist and turned a one-time taunt into a term of endearment. No mean feat on the third floor of Spencer Street in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

I first encountered Shorrock at a Brighton game at Dendy Park in the 1970s. I must have led a sheltered life back then for that day was my introduction to an oft-used Shorrock phrase "Ref, your eyes are painted on!"

This harmless and humorous retort was directed at a serious and humourless man and the referee promptly banished Shorrock from the Brighton bench.

Shorrock and I worked together on Fairfax's national weekly tabloid, Soccer Action, and when that folded we outmanoeuvred departmental managing editor Len Shaw and rescued many thousands of photos, which eventually made their way via a circuitous and barely believable route to Deakin University in Geelong.

In the 1990s I first came across Shorrock's autobiography, My Charmed Life, which gives an entertaining account of a migrant made good and a man whose contribution to the pictorial history of our sport in the back half of last century cannot be praised enough.

There is, however, one glaring omission in his book.

For reasons he never explained to me he chose not to give a clear and first-hand account of his part in one of the biggest Socceroo controversies of the past few decades.

In Auckland on 25 April 1981, John Yzendoorn decided to secretly tape-record the pre-match address of Socceroo coach Rudi Gutendorf before a disappointing 3-3 draw in a World Cup qualifier.

Shorrock got his hands on the tape and took it to his hotel room where, he later claimed, a couple of brandies too many saw it fall into the hands of a Sydney journalist who flew back to Australia and gave his "exclusive" to his newspaper, which promptly published the story and set a scandal in motion.

Australia's World Cup hopes were in tatters after losing the return leg in Sydney 2-0. Gutendorf resigned immediately after the loss and Yzendoorn's international career had been forever tarnished.

As for the title of Shorrock's autobiography, I reckon it's a thinly veiled reference to his wife Eileen. She was by his side for 57 years through good times and bad and she was there when someone whose eyes were painted on blew the whistle for the final time.



STRIKERS SOCCER CLINICS

Saturday Mornings

Skills 8- 12 years

Tiny Tots 3-5 years

Monday nights small sided games

BAYSWATER INDOOR SOCCER

13 Burton Court Bayswater

www.bayswaterindoorsoccer.com

email: bayswaterindoorsoccer.com.au

SUMMER COMPETITONS

5-A-SIDE GRADING GAMES

NOW AVAILABLE:

NEW LEAGUES

MEN'S MIXED

JUNIORS: 10s, 12s, 14s, 16s, 18s & 21s



South American World Cup qualifiers preview

Latin
Wrap



Francis Fields

Goal! Weekly looks ahead to a long road ahead starting Saturday local Australian time as the South American round-robin World Cup 2014 qualifiers commences in a three-year calendar span.

Perhaps one would say there is reason to celebrate. Whenever Brazil does not compete in such a tournament it is both frowned upon for not qualifying for the sheer fact that Brazil is Brazil. Such a heavyweight, superpower in world football to be absent from any international tournament just isn't the same.

This time however it is plain and simple. Brazil is the host of the 2014 World Cup as readers should know therefore the qualification series which continues in its fourth World Cup campaign under the one group, shall consist this time of nine teams, nine countries.

FIFA maintains the four direct passages to the World Cup Finals in this South American zone - governed by CONMEBOL and the one extra slot for the play-off against Asian opposition, AFC's 5th best side.

For Australia's sake, hoping the Socceroos finish up above fifth spot and avoid playing-off with the fifth-placed South American side, the battle for fifth spot will be tightly contested.

Several coaches and players throughout the past week in press conferences have opened up by saying this qualifying round-robin for Brazil 2014 will be "the toughest yet".

The fact Brazil is will not participate opens up a spot that will be hotly contested. Uruguay, the recent Copa América champions will be most certainly looking to top the qualifiers if they are to repeat their performance played out in Argentina last June-July.

Argentina is another who surely should qualify. A World Cup without Argentina just would not be a World Cup and without Brazil in the qualifying round-robin, as much as the Argentina-Brazil match ups are hotly contested, it is a sigh of relief for Argentina not to have them.

So the question is, will the qualifiers be straight-forward? No. Will they be entertaining, full of drama, hotly contested? Absolutely.

Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Paraguay maintained their World Cup performances in the recent Copa América despite results and only seeing two of these sides reach the final in Uruguay and Paraguay, there are other nations that have shown dramatic improvement.

Firstly, Colombia showed glimpses of its past glory prior to the World Cup of the USA in 1994. Still to this day, Colombia's gallant triumph over Argentina in Buenos Aires in 1993 by 5-0 is still fondly remembered. It is a different side to that one but one person in particular remains linked.

Then there is neighbouring Venezuela who is no longer the minnows of the World Cup group. No longer a side that gives away three points for coach César Farías has put years of hard work, dedication and discipline into a side that varies in age, experience but unites in Uruguay and Paraguay, there are other nations that have shown dramatic improvement.

Ecuador and Bolivia are always tough particularly at home due to their capital cities located in high altitude - both Quito and La Paz are over 3,000 metres above sea level and Peru who has left side their football crisis of late.

This past decade only saw Peru make football headlines courtesy of their goal machines Claudio Pizarro in the German Bundesliga particularly with Werder Bremen among other clubs, Schalke 04's Jefferson



Uruguay doing their paces at their training complex in Canelones on the outskirts of capital city Montevideo ahead of the opening match versus Bolivia.



Claudio Borghi giving instructions to his Chilean national team players in Santiago's Juan Pinto Durán complex ahead of their opening clash to Argentina in Buenos Aires.

Farfán and Hamburg SV's Paolo Guerrero. Guerrero was the top goalscorer in the successful Copa América that saw Peru come out of its shell and reach 3rd place in Argentina. The German-based forward has a well-documented fear of flying and one that Peruvians hope does not have when in the air and scoring headers, as one of the most dangerous goalscorers in world football today.

URUGUAY

No other team looks in better shape than Uruguay. The current Copa América holders are brimming in confidence with coach Oscar Washington Tabárez enjoying a successful note as his side has bounced back from obscurity a decade ago.

A fourth-place showing last year in South Africa, winning the Copa América for a record 15th time just goes to show the consistency Uruguay is currently going through.

Diego Forlán is playing like never before when wearing the Celeste jersey. His partner up-front is the ever-present Luis Suárez who just keeps on smiling on the pitch. Edison Cavani is another danger man that confirms Uruguay have the most potent strike trio possibly around in international football. Definitely going around in South America.

The secret to the success is no secret indeed. It has been hard work in a long-term time-frame and always having been known as solid defenders both physically and tactically; Uruguay also counts on a solid starting goalkeeper in Fernando Muslera.

His performances between the posts have been near-perfect for the national side and with a defence that has captain Diego Lugano, Martín Cáceres and rising giant Sebastián Coates, Uruguay may well repeat their solid performances and top the long, 16-match qualifying series.

Lugano without a doubt is the leader at the back, confident, arrogant, elegant, firm and always ever-present with a midfield headed by veteran Diego Pérez, Walter Gargano and Álvaro Pereira who are players who put everything in every tackle, behind every ball.

ARGENTINA

It was a disappointing Copa América for the hosts under Sergio Batista. After a slow start with a draw in La Plata to Bolivia that led onto a resurgence of sorts leading them up to the quarter-finals against River Plate rivals Uruguay, it took Carlos Tévez's failed penalty shot in the extra time shoot out and signaled the exit.

Batista got the sack and former Estudiantes de La Plata's successful club coach Alejandro Sabella got the nod over former and recent Paraguay coach Gerardo Martino and former Paraguay Juniors' successful tactician Carlos Bianchi.

Sabella - a former player began his tenure with a string of friendly matches including two in the subcontinent against Venezuela in

Calcutta, India and against Nigeria in Bangladesh which was an opportunity to begin laying out his ideas, formation, structure and instructions out to his call-up of players.

Questions will always remain as to whether Lionel Messi will work in the various formations for the Argentine national team. He spoke out earlier in the week saying that he cannot get Argentina to play like Barcelona and he cannot take the team all on himself insisting it is a team effort.

Naming Messi as captain early on into Sabella's tenure is a sign of confidence and with the company of Gonzalo Higuaín up front, the Real Madrid forward is always dangerous whether playing for club or country. Coach Sabella did outline however that his main worry is at the back in defence.

Expectations are high for him when with the Argentina shirt and with the debut today at home in Buenos Aires to Chile, it will be the start of a long, 16-match journey.

CHILE

Chile comes off a recent European tour in the last months after their quarter final exit in the Copa América at the hands of two set-pieces conceded to Venezuela and looking ahead to a positive start to the qualifiers.

It was first to Montpellier to play Laurent Blanc's France side, then to St. Gallen in Switzerland early September against the world champions Spain. It was here that Chile played exceptionally well in the first half, completely outclassing their opponents.

The problem with Chile is in the second halves. Whether it is fitness, or a lack of keeping up with consistency in a match, Claudio Borghi's side tends to drop in performance and intensity and/or, the substitutions make a heavy influence to the way Chile plays.

Essentially, it is the formation and squad developed by predecessor Marcelo Bielsa. Loyal to a 3-man backline in a 3-3-1-3 line-up, that sole one-man player in the attacking third of midfield is battled between Claudio Borghi's favourite pin-up boy Matías Fernández or wizard play maker Jorge Valdivia who is currently the subject of a move away from Brazil's Palmeiras to Europe.

An important result in the opening match to Argentina will be just as important as grabbing three points four days later on Tuesday against Peru at home in Santiago. Another point is that Chile averages the highest record attendance of any South American nation in World Cup qualification so the country is right behind their football exploits.

PARAGUAY

Terrific performances last year in South Africa at the World Cup followed by July's final berth in the Copa América losing to Uruguay was the icing on the cake for former coach Gerardo Martino.

Paraguay are known for being strong in midfield, with a never-say-die attitude and giving their all in tackles.

This time, the guaraníes commence a new era under former player and international defender Francisco Arce. His mission will be to take Paraguay to a record fifth consecutive World Cup berth.

Paraguay is a side riddled with discipline, tactical efficiency and one of the few South American sides capable of causing upsets. This is largely due to their array of players playing abroad especially in Europe who understand what it is to hold possession, to hold pressure at the back and to play effective, counter-attacking football on the break. Arce himself has said he is fortunate to have a squad consisting of both "a mix of experience and youth". In midfield, they are spearheaded by Marcelo Estigarribia, Juventus' low-profile signing. In fact, coach Francisco Arce is correct as he counts with forwards like Argentine-born Lucas Barrios, Nelson Haedo-Valdez and veteran goalscorer, now with Betis in Spain's La Liga in Roque Santa Cruz.

In goals, Justo Villar was formidable at the Copa and a very safe pair of hands. He will be out for this weekend's opening fixture against Peru along with Barrios, midfielders Néstor Ortigoza, Jonathan Santana, Antolín Alcaraz and Enrique Vera.

A huge blow but one the Paraguayans will seek to make amends with. Definitely team to look out for.

COLOMBIA

Leonel Álvarez was formerly a defender in that World Cup 1994 side that was even cast as favourite prior to the tournament in the States under coach Francisco Maturationa.

He now coaches Colombia and the curly-haired tactician is looking to make the most of strike partnership duo in former FC Porto and recent Atlético Madrid signing Radamel Falcao García and Racing Club's Teófilo Gutiérrez - who cannot stop scoring in the Argentine championship.

Therefore there is plenty of optimism in the coffee-rich lands of Colombia after a decent and proud showing at the Copa América. Leonel Álvarez is in charge after replacing a controversial dismissal of favourite son and the last coach who took Colombia to a World Cup - Hernán Darío "Bolílo" Gómez after admitting to having allegedly hit a woman at a local bar.

Controversies aside, the Colombia team maintains its identity on the park from the Copa América and prioritising the ball to be played on the ground. They also highlight the use of wingers out wide.

With the absence of Brazil, Colombia has an opening round bye so they will be not only anxious to start but very eager to meet Bolivia in the difficult conditions in La Paz and get that tie over and done with.

For that encounter high up in altitude, coach Álvarez plans to layout a 4-1-4-1 formation which would leave Radamel Falcao the lone man up front leaving Teófilo Gutiérrez and

Giovanni Moreno sitting behind ready to feed him and the Colombians with the dream of a World Cup berth return.

ECUADOR

Will Ecuador reach a third World Cup? They created history by reaching the 2002 and 2006 tournaments consecutively but missed out on the trip to South Africa.

They need to make sure their home advantage is taken to maximum effect.

This is the first objective Colombian coach Reynaldo Rueda has put aside as coach of Ecuador. They need to be formidable at home.

After leaving the Copa América without a win there was plenty of criticism though he admitted to trying new names into the squad with the aim of stepping up into the national team. He also admitted to still not finding a winning formula for his defensive duties at the back which has left him uneasy.

The midfield though is very dynamic and led by Manchester United midfielder Antonio Valencia and the strike power up front of Felipe Caicedo - formerly at Levante last season in La Liga will certainly cause headaches to Bolivia and the rest of the opposition throughout the qualifiers.

Many journalists still remember his sensational performance in the recent Copa América in the northern Argentine city of Córdoba against Brazil which caused plenty of headaches the defence.

BOLIVIA

Bolivia is world-known for playing in high altitude. They can defeat Brazil and Argentina on a good day.

The side now coached by Argentine-born Gustavo Quinteros is a known man in Bolivian after successfully coaching Blooming, the Strongest and Bolívar, all formidable clubs in the domestic club competition.

He knows the players well and recognises the big task ahead for qualification. First up, an daunting task away in Montevideo against Uruguay at the colossal Centenario stadium. By ensuring wins at home at the Hernando Siles stadium in La Paz, and ensuring valuable draws and a few surprise upsets along the way as visitors, Bolivia may cause a stir and do a repeat of its historic 1994 USA side that qualified that still lives in its shadow.

Key man up front is Shkhar Donetsk's Marcelo Martins Moreno who tormented the Argentina defence in their much-publicised 6-1 thumping of Argentina a few years back en route to South Africa.

VENEZUELA

"Our campaign and surge in football will take several years without a doubt", said national team coach César Farías. Wise words from a young man who is coach of his national side that has come at odds from gaining sporting recognition and popularity.

No longer the easy-beats of World Cup

qualification, Venezuela is practically on its third World Cup campaign under similar preparations.

Their group of players consist of plenty of international player experience like Giancarlo Maldonado up front who is also lethal in free-kicks. José Manuel Rey is the most capped international from the oil-rich nation and holds a strong defensive with Oswaldo Vizcarrondo and Gabriel Cichero who both knocked out Chile in the memorable Copa América quarter final triumph.

Nicolás Fedor or "Miku" as he is well-known with Getafe in Spain's La Liga is very dangerous when holding the ball, capable to eluding markers and creating play for Málaga's Salomón Rondón and captain Juan Arango - formerly with Mallorca.

So to boast players in domestic clubs in Spain, others successfully playing their trade in Mexico is a reflection of the seriousness and professionalism these days in Venezuela.

Coach Farías has prepared two sides for the opening two matches of the qualifiers. One away at the heights of Quito against Ecuador and another to face at home in Puerto Ordaz against Argentina.

The fourth spot in the Copa América is not only historic but most importantly a confidence boost to the Venezuelan side that keeps on growing and dreams of creating history as the only South American nation remaining to reach the World Cup finals.

PERU

The rise of Peru is courtesy of Uruguayan coach Sergio Markarián. A devoted man of faith, a successful and globetrotting professional who has plied his knowledge to clubs as far and wide from Greece, to Chile, Peru and Mexico.

So a so-called dubbed 'Magician' from the Peruvian press is now looking to take Peru into a transition from its superb showing at the Copa América reaching third place and cement itself back into the spotlight with a much more respectable World Cup qualifying campaign and relive its past glory, particularly from the 1970s.

After decades of poor showing, including wooden-spoon last places in the qualifying campaigns, the key reason to the demise of Peruvian football was indiscipline. Markarián got rid of the troubles, sorted out the dressing room and has ultimately united the squad.

Stalwart Claudio Pizarro now travels from Germany back to Lima fully motivated to represent his national team, and can count on the performances of Paolo Guerrero for goals. Juan Vargas is another danger man out of the left-wing who dons the purple shirt of Fiorentina in Italy's Serie A and of course, Jefferson Farfán.

A lot of hard work has been done in the preparation ahead of these qualifiers and since 1982, Peru has not shown up to the biggest stage in world football. Now is the time than ever to rise up and shine once again.

WORLD OF SOCCER

THE ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR SOCCER NEEDS

World of Soccer - Dandenong
Shop 4/119 Lonsdale Street
Tel: 9794 5860

FREE POSTAGE ANYWHERE
IN AUSTRALIA

www.worldofsocca.com.au

Plenty of club level action for our Aussies across the globe with many appearances during the month, particularly in youth teams around Europe. Various national level games with the Socceroos, Joeys, Olyroos and Matildas all playing during September. A sprinkling of transfers, with yet more players returning for the new HAL season.

Club Level:-

Starting with action in Europe, in particular to England where the Aussies playing in the EPL are not travelling that well. **Tim Cahill** and **Mark Schwarzer** were the only regulars over the past month, however both their club sides are sitting in the bottom half of the table. **Vince Grella** made his return for Blackburn, but they are staring down the barrel of a long season. **Chris Herd** features in the game day squad for Villa on a regular basis but hasn't seen any game time after his impressive season debut in August. Despite stringing together three recent draws, Middlesbrough remain in the automatic promotion places in the Championship early in the season. **Rhys Williams** has continued his impressive season while **Scott McDonald** returned strongly after an early month hamstring injury. **Kisnorbo**, **Jedinak** and **Federici** are all mid table but all starting to hit form. **Ryan Williams (17)** continues to get some minutes for Portsmouth while **Neil Kilenny's** Bristol City are struggling, having not won since mid August. The Australian presence in League One is highlighted by **James Wesolowski** and **Alex Cisak** at Oldham athletic. Two recent losses have seen them drop back to the lower half of the table. Worth noting that **Kyle Nix's** Gateshead are currently top of the table at Conference level. Up in Scotland, not much Aussie action with **McKay** and **Mooy** missing through injury and **Ryan McGowan** getting limited game time in September. However Rangers have already managed to get a big 10 point lead over Celtic. Defender **Beau Busch** seems to have cemented his place at Arbroath, who now lead Second Division in Scotland. In Scandinavia, great to see **Nathan Coe** getting so many starts in Denmark, along with youngster **Brent McGrath**. Their team results have been a little up and down, but still plenty of games to go to get into the European places. **Ante Covic** had a month dominated by trips to the pine, but with Elfsborg still in second, all is not too bad for the 36 year old. **Luke Wilkshire** has continued his great season with Dinamo Moscow, now three points over the lead in Russia. Moving back across continental Europe, in Croatia, both **Ljubo Milicevic** and **Steven Lustica** appear most weeks for Hajduk Split. They are currently second on the table, but a gap of seven points now exists to powerhouse Dinamo Zagreb. Young **Tomi Juric** didn't see much game time this month as Lokomotiva failed to earn a point. **Danny Invincibile** now finds himself in the starting line-up at Ermis (Cyprus), but not the greatest start to the campaign with

only one point in their first five fixtures. In the Czech Republic, **Mlada Bole-slav (Kerem Bulut)** dropped off a little during the month and now sit sixth on the table. Sydney born **Aleksander Jovanovic** has debuted at Serbian club, Hajduk Kula and **James Troisi** has been in and out of the starting eleven at the slow starting Kayerispor in Turkey. In Germany, no starts this month for either **Leckie**, **Rukavytsya** or **Langerak**. **Robbie Kruse** did manage to start during September in the second tier at Fortuna Dusseldorf. He is yet to break his scoring duck but the team are travelling well sitting two points off the lead with a game in hand. Moving to Italy where many of the Aussies are now in the lower leagues. The exception being **Carl Valeri** who's club, Sassuolo, currently sit fourth with Carl playing a significant role. Exciting to note two young Aussies making their way in the Italian fourth division (Lega Pro 2), with both **Francesco Stella (20)** and **Christian Esposito (21)** regular starters for their respective teams. The Netherlands is a promising destination for Aussies this European season with **Brett Holman** continuing his great form at league leading AZ. Great to see **Tommy Oar** starting to have an impact at Utrecht, where **Michael Zullo** and **Adam Sarota** are also appearing frequently. Rounding out European coverage, yet another Aussie keeper is making headlines with **Caleb Patterson-Sewell** leading Atletico Clube Portugal to the top of the second division table in Liga de Honra. To date, he has kept four clean sheets in the first six games of the season. Across to Asia, where several leagues are reaching the end of the season. In the J.League, **Josh Kennedy** remains one clear in the race for the Golden Boot despite only scoring once in September. His club side, Nagoya Grampus remain in third after a patchy run of late. After scoring for the Socceroos against Thailand, **Alex Brosque** has maintained his scoring form in Japan, having scored three times over the past few weeks. **Eddy Bosnar** also featuring as Shimuzu S-Pulse slowly climb the table. In the second tier in Japan, **Jade North's** Tokyo lead the league, but Jade can't take any credit though given he has played a total of 70 minutes for the season despite being available. The opposite scenario for **Mark Milligan** (nearly 2000 minutes this campaign) as JEF try to gain automatic promotion back to the J.League. In China, another month to go, however **Joel Griffiths'** Beijing Guoan look to be too far behind Guangzhou to claim the title. **Joel** had a reasonable goal scoring month but currently sits five behind the leader of the Golden Boot. At the other end of the table, Chengdu Blades (**Salley** and **Santalab**) will need a few points if they are to avoid relegation. Our Aussies in Singapore are seeing starts in every fixture with **Goran Subara** (Singapore Armed Forces) currently sitting fourth while **Mark McGough's** Balestier Khalsa sit near the bottom of the table. A quick mention to a player abroad known to many fans in Australia. "Aussie"

Aleksander Duric remains second in the race for the Golden Boot in Singapore at the age of 41. Not bad for a guy that made his international debut at the age of 37 and has scored 18 goals in 37 appearances. **Lucas Neill** has started his club career at Al Jazira (U.A.E.) with a few cup appearances while Richard Porta sits two behind the leaders in the race for the Golden Boot in Uruguay. Would be remiss of me not to mention the problems in two leagues that are impacting numerous Aussies Abroad. Several clubs from the Super League in Greece have been relegated for match fixing, whereas the association in Indonesia are struggling to launch a league for the new season. Worth watching further developments in the coming weeks.

Injuries:- A few guys made comebacks during September – **Grella** and **Chipperfield**. However longer term injuries continue to rule out **Garcia (knee)**, **Ireland (thigh)**, **Tombides (cancer treatment)**, **Mooy (back)**, **Gulum (knee)** and **Ucchino (glandular fever)**.

Club Competitions:-
Europe
(UEFA Champions League) Limited Aussies making appearances with Mitchell Langerak have two games on the pine for Dortmund. **Scott Chipperfield** got a few minutes off the bench in the glamour tie with Manchester United.
(UEFA Europa League) Only **Brett Holman (AZ)** and **Mark Schwarzer (Fulham)** remain in this competition with both getting starts during September. **James Holland** was an unused substitute in the most recent tie for AZ..
Asia
(AFC Champions League) No Aussies remain.
(AFC Cup) No Aussies remain.
North America
(CONCACAF) No Aussie appearances

Youth:- Updates from the "NextGen Series", the youth level Champions League, were all about Brad Smith who made four appearances during the month for Liverpool. **Massimo Luongo** appeared in a Tottenham fixture and **Reece Caira** (Aston Villa) was an unused substitute. **Cameron Edwards** (Reading), **Jamie MacLaren** (Blackburn) and **Marc Warren** (Sheffield United) are all regulars at the reserves level. An astounding number of Aussie keepers at youth level, with **Liam Jacob (Manchester United)**, **Alex Baird (Newcastle)** and **Dean Gardikiotis (Blackpool)** all starting in their respective youth teams.

National level :- After a narrow escape in the warm up game with Thailand, the Socceroos turned out against Saudi Arabia back in early September for a WC qualifier. A pleasing 3-1 win with **Josh Kennedy** netting a brace. The Olyroos played an uninspiring 0-0 with U.A.E. using an Australia based squad. The Matildas were knocked out of the World Cup and the Joeys

McKay wins footballer of the year award



Photo: PETER NEVILLE

The third annual Australian Football Awards incorporating the Professional Footballers Australia (PFA) and Football Media Association of Australia (FMA) awards were held in Sydney on Monday night

The Awards brings together the Qantas Socceroos, Westfield Matildas and the grass roots football community, providing a unique opportunity to recognise and reward outstanding achievements at all levels of the game. "We received a record number of nominations for this year's award's from all around Australia," said Football Federation Australia CEO, Ben Buckley.

"It is humbling to see the diversity of people that contribute so much of their lives to this sport that we all love. "This year's nominees and winners are truly outstanding and rightfully deserve recognition for their achievements," concluded Buckley.

The winners of the 2011 Australian Football Awards were announced at the gala Awards ceremony in the ballroom of the Sheraton on the Park Hotel in Sydney.

In the professional category, Qantas Socceroo Matt McKay together with Westfield Matilda and Brisbane Roar player, Elise Kellond-Knight made it a Queensland double when they

secured the 2011 Male and Female Footballer of the Year titles. In the Under 20 Footballer of the Year for 2011, Westfield Young Matilda Caitlin Foord and Central Coast Mariners goalkeeper Matt Ryan took out the female and male categories respectively.

In the non professional category teams, volunteers, coaches and referees from around the nation were all vying for the top prize.

Teams from the ACT took out both the Senior and Youth team of the Year Awards with Canberra Street Soccer and the Under 14 girls from the Woden Valley Soccer Club.

The male coach of the year award went to Brett Wallin who coached the Illawarra Stingrays to the NSW Women's Premier League championship and the female coach of the year went to Victorian Jamara Maza who also recently won the Victorian Coach of the Year award.

The referee of the year went to Richard Naumovski from Canberra and the volunteer of the year award was presented to Mark Roden from the Maroochydore Football Club in Queensland.

Winners of the PFA and FMA awards were also revealed at the gala Awards ceremony.

Matt McKay made it a double when

he also collected The PFA Footballer of the Year receiving 329 votes from his fellow professionals, ahead of Qantas Socceroos teammate and AZ Alkmaar attacking midfielder Brett Holman (194), Tim Cahill (185) and 2010/11 Johnny Warren Medallist, Marcos Flores (109).

The PFA Harry Kewell Medal for Australia's best young player under the age of 23 was awarded to former Melbourne Victory and Brisbane Roar forward Robbie Kruse who, like Matt, established himself as a genuine international at the AFC Asian Cup 2011 in Qatar.

Kruse dominated the voting for the award with 310 votes, ahead of Qantas Young Socceroos and FC Utrecht forward Tommy Oar (165) and Kosta Barbarouses (162), the New Zealand international and former Brisbane Roar forward.

In addition, Elise Kellond-Knight also bagged both top gongs with the PFA Women's Footballer of the Year Award who received 39 votes from her fellow Matildas. 16 year-old forward Caitlin Foord finished second with 25 votes, whilst goalkeeper Lydia Williams was third with 19.

The Football Media Association Australian International Player of the Year went to Brett Holman, as voted by the Australian football media.

put in some smashing performances in Asia.

Transfers :- Fairly limited movement this month. A few Aussies headed to Hong Kong for the start of the new season there. The trend of players returning to the HAL seems to be continuing however still a few uncontracted players in the market – not forgetting **Carney**, **Bouzanis** and **Madaschi** are still looking for homes.

Additions/changes to database: -
Julius Doe Davies (4 Sep 1994) – transferred to TSG 1899 Hoffenheim, Germany
Karl Dodd (13 Nov 1980) – transferred

to TSW Pegasus, Hong Kong
Christian Esposito (23 Jul 1990) – loaned to FC Catanzaro, Italy
Aleksander Jovanovic (4 Aug 1989) – transferred to FK Hajduk Kula, Serbia
Dane Milovanovic (2 Dec 1989) – transferred to Sun Hei SC, Hong Kong
Robert Stambolziev (26 Oct 1990) – transferred to AO Proodeftiki Nikea, Greece
Jonathan Stynes (1 Apr 1993) – transferred to Kilmarnock, Scotland
Nenad Vekic (14 Apr 1990) – transferred to Tuen Mun SA, Hong Kong

Removed from database:-
Matthew Fletcher (1 Jun 1992) – re-

leased by Sunderland, uncontracted
Ryan Gazet du Chattelier (17 Feb 1991) – released by Stuttgart Kickers II, uncontracted
Daniel Georgievski (17 Feb 1988) appeared for senior Macedonian football team
Andrija Jukic (3 Jan 1987) – released by Bogor Raya, uncontracted
George Lambadaridis (23 Apr 1992) – transferred to Brisbane Roar
Billy Quinncroft (25 Dec 1991) - by Bogor Raya, uncontracted
David Scarsella (2 Oct 1982) – released by Guiseley, uncontracted
Milan Susak (29 Jan 1984) – transferred to Adelaide United

The latest Adidas Football Team Wear available to your team.

To receive the latest catalogue contact adidas on 1800 801 891







Juve and Napoli underline credentials



Luca Cetta

Juventus and Napoli claimed the plaudits from Round 6 of Serie A, with wins over Milan and Inter respectively. Elsewhere, Udinese remains at the summit thanks to a victory over Bologna as Roma and Lazio impressed.

Juventus triumphed 2-0 against champions Milan in the weekend's big match, with Claudio Marchisio scoring a last-gasp brace to ensure the Turin giants remain equal first in Serie A.

Mirko Vucinic came closest to breaking the deadlock in the first half when his chip from outside the penalty area hit the underside of Milan custodian Christian Abbiati's crossbar and bounced out.

Leonardo Bonucci failed to bundle an Andrea Pirlo cross over the line just after the break as Buffon was at full-stretch to tip Kevin-Prince Boateng's low drive out for a corner.

Vucinic and Arturo Vidal flashed efforts just wide as Juventus pressured but failed to find a goal. Finally, in the 87th minute, Marchisio exchanged a give-and-go with both Vidal and Vucinic before Daniele Bonera's attempted clearance ricochet off the Juve midfielder past Abbiati.

Boateng was sent off for a second bookable offence after connecting with Giorgio Chiellini's face. Marchisio then struck a volley from outside the box which squirmed between Abbiati's legs to seal the win.

Juventus Coach Antonio Conte was quick to play down Scudetto talk. "We are still studying to be a big team, but tonight's game proved we are on the right track. It's too early to make predictions or pick ambitious targets."

Napoli defeated Inter 3-0 in a controversial contest. Referee Gianluca Rocchi sent off Nerazzurri midfielder Joel Obi for a second bookable offence and awarded Napoli a penalty from a foul committed outside the area.

The win, Napoli's first against Inter away from home in 17 years, came courtesy of goals from Hugo Campagnaro, Christian Maggio and Marek Hamsik.

Inter opened the Claudio Ranieri era with two wins between Serie A and the Champions League, but Obi's push on Maggio and subsequent red card had them in trouble just before half-time. Julio Cesar saved Hamsik's penalty but Campagnaro was the first to the rebound. To cap off the controversy, the Argentine and three Inter players had encroached, plus Ranieri was sent off for taking his protests too far.

Maggio pounced on static Inter defending to put Napoli two goals up ten minutes into the second half and the visitors capped off a superb evening with 15 minutes remaining as Hamsik slotted his shot past Julio Cesar.

Both Roman sides enjoyed impressive victories. Roma continued their revival, beating the previously undefeated Atalanta 3-1, while Lazio enjoyed a come-from-behind 2-1 win against Fiorentina.

Bojan Krkic scored his first goal for the Giallorossi as Roma played their best football of the season. Pablo Osvaldo broke the offside trap to make it 2-0 just past the half hour mark.

Atalanta was back in the contest just after the break through German Denis' header, but Fabio Simplicio rounded out the scoring nine minutes from the end.

In Florence, a Stevan Jovetic cut-back gave Alessio Cerci the chance to open the scoring for the hosts in the 8th minute, which he took with aplomb. Hernanes equalised on 27 minutes, angling a low shot past Artur Boruc.

Both sides had chances to win it in the second half, but it was left to German veteran Miroslav Klose to nod home Lazio's winner with only eight minutes remaining on the clock.

In other matches, Udinese remains equal first following a 2-0 win over Bologna. Medhi Benatia scored in the opening period, before Antonio Di Natale converted a penalty to seal the points. The result has cost Bologna Coach Pierpaolo Bisoli his job; Stefano Pioli, who was sacked by Palermo in pre-season, has agreed to a two-year contract.

Palermo and Cagliari were victorious by the same score. The Sicilians bettered



Stefano Pioli makes a return to Serie A with Bologna after Pepe Bisoli was sacked.

Siena, with Giulio Migliaccio and Abel Hernandez on target, while Cagliari had Thiago Ribeiro and Davide Biondini to thank as they snatched the points away at Lecce.

Parma's Sebastian Giovinco scored a double to help his side overcome Genoa 3-1. Stefano Morrone netted the sealer in the second half, with Rodrigo Palacio's penalty merely a consolation for the visitors.

Novara and Catania played out an entertaining 3-3 draw. The away side took the lead twice, but Novara fought back and thought they did enough to claim all three points when Jeda made it 3-2 in the 85th minute. The exciting Alejandro Gomez ensured it finished level, striking in injury time.

Cesena got off the mark with a 0-0 draw at home to Chievo, but missed a golden opportunity to pick up their first win. New signing Adrian Mutu had a second half penalty saved by Stefano Sorrentino which guaranteed a share of the spoils.

Finally, Italian national team boss Cesare Prandelli announced his squad for the upcoming Euro 2012 qualifiers against Serbia and Northern Ireland, handing recalls to Andrea Barzagli and Luca Cigarini. Italy has already qualified for the

Championships with first position sealed in Group C.

ITALIAN SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Buffon (Juventus), De Sanctis (Napoli), Sirigu (Paris Saint-Germain); **Defenders:** Astori (Cagliari), Balzaretti (Palermo), Barzagli (Juventus), Bonucci (Juventus), Cassani (Fiorentina), Chiellini (Juventus), Criscito (Zenit), Maggio (Napoli); **Midfielders:** Aquilani (Milan), Cigarini (Atalanta), De Rossi (Roma), Marchisio (Juventus), Montolivo (Fiorentina), Nocerino (Milan), Pirlo (Juventus); **Forwards:** Balotelli (Manchester City), Cassano (Milan), Giovinco (Parma), Pazzini (Inter), Rossi (Villarreal).

Upcoming fixtures:

No Serie A matches due to international weekend

Euro 2012 Qualifier:

Friday, October 7
Serbia v Italy

Euro 2012 Qualifier:

Tuesday, October 11
Italy v Northern Ireland

Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

Serbia

Partizan is two points clear at the top of the Serbian SuperLiga following seven rounds of football. The 'black and whites' took the points against Vojvodina last week in the derby of round seven with a 2:1 in Novi Sad. Red Star however slipped up at home to Radnicki sharing the points in a 1:1 draw. Newly promoted Radnicki is one of two teams that are yet to lose a match in the league alongside Sloboda.

The National Team takes on Italy in a crucial Euro 2012 Qualifier in Belgrade on Friday with a win confirming a play-off spot. Serbia has a point advantage over Estonia and if the Estonians lose to Northern Ireland then even a draw will be good enough for the 'White Eagles' and if nothing is yet confirmed then the clash against Slovenia in Ljubljana will be another crucial match for Serbia. Manager Vladimir Petrovic recalled strikers Nikola Zigic and Dragan Mrdja along with two debutants BATE Borisov defender Marko Simic and FK Rad youngster Luka Milivojevic. Serbia is likely to start with a 4:4:1:1 formation, with Marko Pantelic playing behind Nikola Zigic.

Croatia

Dinamo Zagreb has failed to score in its opening two matches in the UEFA Champions League. A 1:0 home loss to Real Madrid and a 2:0 away defeat to Lyon. Kruno Jurcic's men have however increased their lead at the top of the Croatian First League to seven points over rivals Hajduk and RNK Split following ten rounds of play.

The 'blues' from Zagreb and six time consecutive Croatian League winners are hot favourites to win the title for a seventh consecutive time and have set themselves a goal to reach the Group Stages of the Champions League every season. The club has the added wealth of over 30 million for reaching the Group Stages. Club President Zdravko Mamic has given the Basketball club Cibona Zagreb almost 2million euros and saved them from bankruptcy. Times are good for the country's biggest football club but for the once famous basketball team they are on the ropes and if it wasn't for Mamic the former European Champions would be a distant memory.

The National Team is away to Greece in a crucial Euro 2012 Qualifier. The 'Vatreni' are top of the Group with a point advantage of the Greeks and a win would see progression to the European Championships in 2012 but a loss will be very costly and will lead to second place thus meaning they would have to go through the play-offs for a spot in the finals.

Slaven Bilic is cautious ahead of the clash in Athens and warns his side must be fully focused on the task ahead and that Greece are no walkover.

"We must show all of our qualities and play like a top 10 team in the world that is the biggest and only truth. We are here for a result that will take us to the European Championships in Ukraine and Poland. We are first in the Group and this will be a match ball for us and we hope that we return home as the first placed side in the Group." Croatia Manager Slaven Bilic said.

"Greece has players that can take risks but they don't usually do that. We are play-

ing against a strong side but we are ready for anything and everything and even for their defensive tactics which will surely work against them this time. We will try and dominate with possession and play an attacking game if possible and keep the ball away from our goal." Bilic added.
Croatia reached the Quarter Finals of Euro 2008 without losing a match and was knocked out by Turkey on penalties in one of the most dramatic matches in tournament history. They failed to Qualify for the World Cup in South Africa.

Turkey/Greece

Fenerbahce is the leader at the top of the Turkish League following 5 rounds of football. After the match fixing scandal which rocked Turkish football the defending Champions were stripped of their title. Fenerbahce has a three point lead over four teams which share second place.

The National side takes on Germany in a crucial Euro 2012 Qualifier. Turkey has a two point advantage over third placed Belgium and a point at home to Germany and a win over Azerbaijan will seal a play-off spot for the 'red and whites' ahead of Belgium.

It will be some what of a derby match as Germany has a large Turkish community and the national side consists of players with Turkish origins. Mesut Ozil is one of the most talented players in the world but he chose to play for his birth country Germany ahead of his blood nation Turkey which caused an uproar in Turkey. One player that rejected the German national team was Nuri Sahin and is now a key member of the Turkish side despite being born in Germany.

"Hopefully there won't be the same atmosphere as in the Berlin game, I don't want to get booed and whistled at again." Mesut Ozil said

"From Germany's point of view this is going to be a tough game. Its our toughest game so far. We have already qualified so there is no pressure on us going into the game. However, whatever the result of the game I hope Turkey quality for Euro 2012. I think that the Turks are proud of me," he said. "They are proud to have a regular at Real Madrid. "I have experienced the respect that they have shown for that and many people accept and respect my decision to play for Germany." Ozil added.

The Greek League is only five rounds old with four teams sharing top spot. PAOK, Olympiakos, Atromitos and AEK have nine points but Olympiakos has only played three matches. Manuel Jimenez resigned from the Managerial job at AEK and the club is not lead by former player Nikos Kostenoglou.

Angelos Charisteas is back in the Greece squad for the crucial Euro 2012 qualifier against Croatia. The 31-year-old Panaitolikos GFS forward has scored 24 goals in 85 games for his country and is hoping he can prove the difference in the match against Group leaders Croatia and send the Greeks to the Euro 2012 finals which will be the nations third straight appearance at the Championships. He was a key part of the side that won the tournament in 2004 scoring crucial goals against France and against Portugal in the Final.

"I am so happy to be back. I consider it a reward for my efforts this season and I am really proud and excited that I am able to help out ahead of such decisive encounters. Everything has been going smoothly with coach Fernando Manuel Santos so far and I am sure we will work well together." Charisteas told UEFA.com

Montenegro takes on England in a crucial Euro 2012 Qualifier which will determine if they will at least be in the play offs. Montenegro is currently in second place with three points more than Switzerland a side they take on three days later.



Pepe Lopez

With qualification to Euro2012 (Poland-Ukraine) secured exactly one month ago, the World and European champions Spain, along with the Netherlands who qualified on the same day, will join hosts Poland and Ukraine in Pot One of the Euro2012 draw to be conducted in Kyiv, Ukraine on the 2nd of December later this year.

As holders of the Euro2008, Spain take on the position as top seed, the Netherlands then take on the position as second seed with the highest co-efficient rating in Europe, ironically behind Euro2008 holders, Spain on co-efficient points. The only other teams to have qualified to date, are Germany and Italy, these two countries will go into Pot Two of the draw, along with England and Croatia should the two countries secure qualification in the next

Spain in World Cup Re-match

week of qualifiers.

Just as the Spanish did in their 2010 World Cup qualifiers, the nation currently boasts a 100% record. To maintain this perfect record ahead of the Euro2012 finals, Spain will need to overcome the Czech Republic in Prague Friday (European time) and then at home in the coastal city of Alicante just 5 days later. The Czech Republic are in the box seat to take the runners up place in Group I, and a play-off shot to qualify for the Euro2012 finals, but do face difficult fixtures at home to Spain and then away to Lithuania next week. Scotland will need to beat Liechtenstein away this weekend, and rely on both Spain and Lithuania to take points off the Czech Republic to have any chance of securing a play-off spot.

In late news ahead of the final Group I qualifiers Spain have lost both Barca midfielder Cesc Fabregas and Sevilla forward Alvaro Negredo to hamstring injuries.

Spanish Coach Vicente Del Bosque has opted not to replace the two players, opening up the door for Chelsea's Fernando Torres to try and redeem his reputation as a first choice player for his

national team.

Negredo, a former Real Madrid squad member, had recently caught the attention of clubs in Italy's Serie A and England's Premier League, but has signed a new contract with his Spanish club Sevilla FC, extending his time with the Andalusian powerhouse to 2016. Negredo the top scoring Spaniard in La Liga last season, was quoted on his club's web-site; "It was what the club and I were looking for. I want to continue growing in this great team and what better way to recognise the trust placed in me than to renew and extend the contract... I'm very comfortable here, very comfortable. The club has always believed in me."

Euro2012 Qualifiers:

Friday October 07
Czech Republic v Spain
Stadion Letná, Prague (CZE)

Thursday October 12

Spain v Scotland
Rico Perez, Alicante (ESP)
Live 5:45am, Setanta Sports



No time for siestas as World Cups, Euro Championships and Eurovisions are a regular part of Spain's diet these days.

HE'S
BACK!

HARRY KEWELL

Official Adidas Melbourne Victory
Kewell Hero Shirts
On Sale NOW!

THIS IS FOOTBALL
www.thisisfootball.com.au

CLUB KIT SPECIALIST
P: 03 9428 3066

189 SWAN STREET, RICHMOND, VIC 3121. Email: thisisfootball@live.com.au

Elastoplast

Sport 
Supporting your Passion

Prevention is better than cure so protect yourself against injury with the Elastoplast Sport range of sports medicine products. Exclusively used by The Australian Institute of Sport and many other elite sports clubs across Australia and New Zealand.

- Rigid Strapping Tapes
- Mouthguards
- Elastic Adhesive Bandages
- Hot/Cold Packs

For all your Sports Medicine needs. Available from pharmacy, sports medicine wholesalers and supermarkets.



Visit
iTunes
 for your
FREE
Download

Available on the iPhone.
 App Store

OFFICIAL SUPPLIER



AUSTRALIAN
 INSTITUTE OF SPORT

MAJOR SPONSOR



SAFER SPORT PROGRAMME

www.elastoplastsport.com

Customer Service: 1800 269 933 toll free

Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist see your healthcare practitioner.

Elastoplast®

Sport 
Supporting your Passion

BDF ●●●●●
Beiersdorf
 © = Reg. tm. Beiersdorf AG

Here's Looking You, Kid

Souvenir Harry Kewell Face Mask



Cut out and keep forever!!!

LIMITED FULL SEASON MEMBERSHIPS REMAINING!

**VICTORY
MARCH ON**
TAKE THE NEXT STEP

BUY NOW AND MARCH ON WITH US IN 2011/12

Call 1300 GO MVFC (46 6832)
or visit Melbournevictory.com.au

